August 1995

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UAB MEDWISE

MEDICAL CENTER 50 YEARS UAB

Grande Tier Travelers – Haste Ye Back!

Our British Heritage travelers gathered at Stratford-upon-Avon for this group shot.

Get Over It? Not Soon!

Our first Grande Tier excursion to England, Scotland, and Wales – during which 24 MedWise travelers covered 1,609 miles in less that 15 days – was memorable in so many ways. Fleeting memories of the highlights rush forward, one after the other: bon voyage party, Windsor Castle, double-decker buses, sun-rain-sun-rain, 10 Downing Street, Big Ben, Bath and the Romans, Ben Nevis, gorse, deep yellow fields of flowering rape, most noble one, ghosts, the inevitable cauliflower, Edinburgh Castle . . .

Continued on page 11

OUR ANNUAL GALA GOES UPTOWN!

Picture yourself and your spouse or significant other dressed to the nines, dining and dancing to your favorite tunes against a panoramic backdrop of glittering city lights. If we've just described your idea of a perfect evening out, you won't want to miss Trip the Light Fantastic 1995.

Our gala evening, October 21, is going to be an extra-special one for MedWise members lucky enough to attend – an occasion to remember for months afterward. The party begins at 5:30 p.m. with beverages, followed by an elegant sit-down dinner in the Grand Ballroom at The Club, high atop Birmingham's Red Mountain. Dancing – to the music of the ever-popular Joe Giattina Orchestra, featuring vocalist Mary Ogletree – starts at 7 p.m. and continues until 10 p.m.

As always, there will be a cash bar and plenty of door prizes, including two plane tickets good for travel anywhere in the continental United States, courtesy of USAir. The entire MedWise staff will be on hand, too, just to make sure you're having fun. And remember: you don't have to worry about what to do with your car while you're enjoying the dance – one of The Club's efficient valets will park it for you when you arrive and retrieve it at the end of the evening.

Tickets for Trip the Light Fantastic 1995 are $25 per person for MedWise members and $30 per person for nonmembers. To make reservations, just fill out the form on page 12 and mail it, along with your check, to us at the address printed on the form. Checks should be made payable to UAB MedWise. Because of space limitations at The Club, the number of tickets available for Trip the Light Fantastic 1995 is severely limited, so we recommend that you reserve early to avoid disappointment!

A Happy Fifth Birthday Open Letter to Our 88,000 Closest Friends!

It's celebration time! Thanks to all of you, MedWise's fifth anniversary and our many successes are cause to pause and count our blessings.

But rather than dwell on the wonderful things that have brought you and us to this point, we want to whet your curiosity by inviting you to watch this newspaper and your mail very carefully over the next six months.

Some exciting changes and additions to MedWise are on the horizon. Our staff is busy preparing for some spectacular announcements, each of which is designed to bring MedWise, University Hospital, and The Kirklin Clinic at UAB closer to you as an individual member.

We're working hard to develop our wellness relationship with you, to emphasize our goals of helping you enjoy a healthier mind, body, and spirit.

Our membership of 88,000 is a number of which we are proud, because it's your way of saying to us, "We appreciate what you are doing, and we're taking part." We realize, though, that this kind of success brings with it greater challenges to meet your needs with stronger, more individualized services.

A hint of what's coming: the key to making MedWise more important to you, not only as a group but as an individual as well.

If you like us now, just wait until you see what we have in store for you! Coming soon!

George Mickwee, Director

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Remember This

Changes in MedWise Benefits

• Beginning June 1, the cost for replacing a lost or stolen MedWise membership card was $10.

• The cost of a replacement *Directory of Member Benefits* will be $15 effective August 1.

• The new room rate for Best Western at the Medical Center is $38.95 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy. Best Western will continue to offer complimentary transportation to and from the medical center from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Best Western at the Medical Center is located at 800 11th Street South. Call 933-1900 or 1-800-528-1234 for reservations.

• The Big Green Cleaning Machine offer has expired.

• The UAB University Inn offer has expired.

• Effective April 1, the fee for installation of the Lifeline emergency response system increased to $30 for MedWise members (still a 40% discount off the regular rate) and $50 for nonmembers. Current Lifeline subscribers were not affected by the change. Everyone can still get the peace of mind and independence Lifeline offers for just $30 per month. UAB MedWise Lifeline continues to be the highest-quality, lowest-priced emergency response system around! For more information call 975-8000 or 1-800-822-8816.

• SAS Shoes has changed their store hours. They are now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. SAS is located in the Oak Mountain Market Place at Highway 119 and Highway 31. For more information call 988-0172.

Wanted: Used-to-Be or Want-to-Be Singers

If you are 55 or better and would like to be a UAB MedWise Entertainer, here's your chance. We're looking for men and women to join our new choral group. Everyone's welcome – whether you're a veteran vocalist or a novice warbler who'd like to learn to carry a tune. Al Kline, a professional voice teacher with experience in both opera and musical theater, has volunteered to teach and direct the group.

Just call Linda at 975-8000 or 1-800-822-8816 and ask her to add your name to our list. When you dial one of these numbers, you'll be taking the first step toward a singing career that will bring pleasure to others and joy to your heart!

IPA-USA Holds National Conference at UAB

Everyone is invited to come experience "Play, an Intergenerational Experience," the fourth national triennial conference of the American Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA-USA). The conference, which is being held at UAB's Hill University Center, August 24-27, 1995, offers the opportunity for adults and children to join hands in play.

IPA-USA believes that American children of all ages have the right to play and interact under optimal conditions. "Play, an Intergenerational Experience" will focus on the concept of, and prospects for, intergenerational play from both theoretical and practical points of view. Session topics include Play Leadership, Adventure Play, Intergenerational Communication, Safety, Playground Development, and Play Space Design. The conference also includes a Children's Concert, PlayDay, and a Research Roundtable focusing on various aspects of play.

If you have any talents – wood carving, singing, clowning, storytelling – that you think children would enjoy, the folks at IPA-USA would like to hear from you. They need volunteers to demonstrate their skills on PlayDay, Saturday, August 26, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

You're also welcome to attend the conference as a guest. The registration fee for the full conference is $125 per person for nonmembers. The deadline for preregistration is August 1. There is a late registration fee of $25 after this date.

For more information, to offer your services as a PlayDay volunteer, or to register for the conference, call Dr. Tom Jambor, Associate Professor, UAB School of Education, and IPA-USA 1995 Conference Chair, at 934-5371.

New MedWise Membe Parking Procedures

Procedures for receiving free parking at UAI University Hospital and The Kirklin Clinic have been revised. To park free in the UAB decks and surface parking lots, you must have your parking ticket stamped before you leave the department, clinic, or ward you are visiting at UAB University Hospital. You should also sign the ticket and write your MedWise number on the back before presenting the ticket to the parking attendant. You will be required to present your MedWise membership card to the attendant as well. The attendant will return your card to you before you leave the parking facility.

Patients visiting the Veterans Administration Hospital, Children's Hospital, Eye Foundation Hospital, and Cooper Green Hospital are not eligible to receive the free MedWise parking benefit.

To receive free parking in The Kirklin Clinic deck, you must be visiting the clinic as a patient. You should have your parking ticket stamped in the department you are visiting, sign the ticket, and write your MedWise number on the back before presenting the ticket and your MedWise card to the parking attendant. If you forget to take your ticket into the clinic, you will be issued a voucher to present with your MedWise card as you exit the parking area.

MedWise members who are Medical Center employees (i.e., UAB, Veterans Administration Hospital, Health Services Foundation, Cooper Green Hospital, Eye Foundation Hospital, and Children's Hospital) cannot park free while they are on the job. If you try to use your MedWise card to park free while you are at work, your card will be revoked. In some cases, you may also risk termination of your employment.

UAB University Hospital and The Kirklin Clinic at UAB value your business and appreciate your cooperation in helping them to ensure that the MedWise free parking privilege is not abused.

Grande Tier Travel Q&A

1. What city attracts more than five million visitors a year to its star-studded theaters and is second only to Nashville as a mecca for country music fans?
2. What city is home to the nation's largest urban colony of bats?
3. What world-famous resort hotel can boast that no two of its luxurious guest rooms have the same decor?

(answers are on page 7)

the funny bone

An old man was standing out in his yard when a frog jumped between his feet. The frog looked up at the old man and said, "If you'll pick me up and kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful, sexy young lady."

The old man picked the frog up, looked at it, and started to put it in his pocket. The frog said, "Aren't you going to kiss me?"

The old man replied, "No. At my age, I think I'd rather have a talking frog."

The August Funny Bone winner is Ruth Ellis of Jacksonville, Alabama. Ruth will receive a $10 gift certificate, compliments of UAB MedWise.

Send your favorite joke, self-drawn cartoon, or funny story to: The Funny Bone, UAB MedWise, Medical Towers, Suite 508, 1717 11th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35294.

UAB MedWise

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UAB MedWise welcomes all submissions, but space will not permit us to publish everything we receive. Submissions should be received in the MedWise office on the 20th of the month two months prior to the month in which you would like the material to appear. UAB MedWise reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The UAB MedWise Newspaper is published 9 times a year by the University of Alabama at Birmingham, an equal opportunity employer. The intent of the newspaper is to provide general information about health-related issues, not to provide advice or information about any specific health problems.

References to products and services are intended for informational purposes only and do not constitute an endorsement by UAB MedWise.

Charles Vallely Is the Winner of Our Essay Contest!

Congratulations to Charles J. Vallely of Birmingham, winner of our "If I Were the President" essay contest. Charles wins a four-day, three-night trip for four to Washington, D.C., courtesy of USAir and Landmark Tour and Travel.

As usual, it was difficult to pick just one winner from so many fine entries. We appreciate every one of you who sent in an essay and regret that space doesn't permit us to print them all.

Charles's winning essay is both thought-provoking and well written, and we hope you'll enjoy it. However, please keep in mind that it offers one person's opinion – it does not necessarily reflect the opinions of UAB MedWise and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

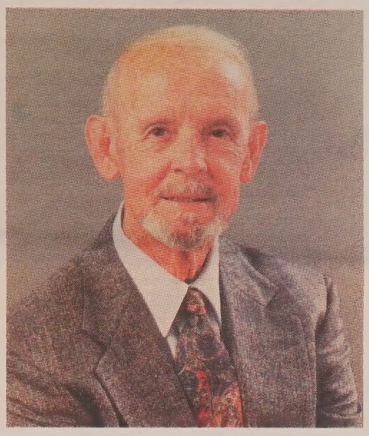
If I Were the President:

I would bring to the office the feelings of the majority of the American people: that the government is too big, spends too much, taxes unfairly, has lost touch with reality, doesn't listen to voters, thinks it must solve all problems, and generally makes a mess of most of what it touches.

During my "only" term, I would pledge all of my efforts to accomplish a single objective – to do what is "right" for the country and its people.

I use the word "right" because it embraces that which is moral, plus that to which all are entitled by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Gone would be decisions based on party politics, political correctness, special interest groups, acquiring personal power and financial gain, and anticipated future voting.

Personnel for positions in my administration would be selected based on integrity, competence, job knowledge, high moral standards, proven previous experience, and the willingness to work toward reducing government bureaucracy.



Essay contest winner Charles Vallely

I would use the power of the White House to strongly urge the members of Congress to realign their priorities toward acting in behalf of their country's and constituents' needs – to seriously and expeditiously investigate and correct the massive fraud, waste, and mismanagement of current entitlement programs, to simplify tax filing, and absolutely to avoid spending more money than is taken in. Also, to prove to the American people that Congress will live by the rules that exist for everyone else.

I would direct all agencies of the government to unburden all businesses (and individuals) immediately of the intrusive, unwise, abusive, and just plain stupid time-consuming and costly restrictions and regulations that stifle economic growth and research and the fair treatment of all employees. In particular, I would demand that the Internal Revenue Service develop an immediate plan to go after the $150 billion in uncollected taxes.

With businesses' newfound opportunity for expansion, I would expect them to share their good fortune with employees in a mutually acceptable manner and become actively involved in the educational and training needs of all types of school systems to further students' ability to enter the business world and to become self-sufficient.

The presidential office would be used to uplift the traditional value system that made this country great – the family, respect for individual personal beliefs in something "Higher," opportunity for personal growth and development, rewards for individual effort, being responsible for one's own actions, and treating others as we want to be treated.

Finally, I would hope that at the end of my term, the American people would once again feel that their vote has more meaning and value than ever before, that government cannot and should not be expected to take care of all the inequities caused by the "unfairness of life," that, when all is said and done, they themselves, by virtue of their cherished freedom, are the ones who are in control of the success or failure of whatever it is they choose to do.

Contest air travel provided courtesy of **USAir**

If I Were the President – Honorable Mention

We think even the President would get a chuckle or two out of this entry from Lester M. Ross, Sr., of Huntsville. We hope all of you like it as much as we did!

LMR: Good evening, and welcome to my first press conference since becoming your umpteenth President. Please begin your questions. Helen?

HELEN: Mr. President, what are your health plans?

LMR: Well, Helen, for an hour each morning, I'm going to run around the Rose Garden with First Dogs Adam and Eve, and then eat two bowls of Bran-de-lites, and then . . .

HELEN: Hold it! Hold it! Sir, I meant, what are your health plans for the people?

LMR: Oops! Well, first I will order that the 109,287,401 couch potatoes in the nation either peel off their fat or be whipped into shape by a trainer. Next, I'll see that the Heimlich maneuver is covered by insurance so that cornbread lovers everywhere can choke without going broke from emergency room expenses. And I'll also call for coverage of one liposuction per person per lifetime. Think how that will beautify this great land of ours! Yes, Sam?

SAM: President Ross, is it true that you are soft on housing?

LMR: Absolutely not! I want to see a good roof and, I might add, a good "rug," over every head. Nothing personal, Sam. You're next, Britt.

BRITT: Is education a priority with you, sir?

LMR: Yes indeed! I will push for low-interest-rate educational loans so that every boy and girl who wants to go to college can experience the same pride, self-satisfaction, and fun that I did during my eight undergraduate years at the University of Alabama. And for K to 12 students, I advocate free lunches with healthful menus. The slogan "Say Okay to Okra" shall be instilled in their brains. Wolfe?

WOLFE: What is your stance on foreign affairs, Mr. President?

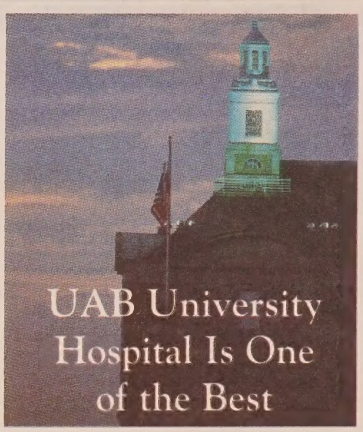
LMR: As you know, there's good detente among most nations now, and I aim to keep it that way. I used to have a laissez-faire attitude until Kissinger and burgeoning communication facilities shrank the world. Speaking of Kissinger, I just might make him an envoy. But I'll tell you one thing, Wolfe. If old Saddam Hussein acts up again, forget emissaries. I'm going to send you over to make a Blitz(er)krieg! Sam?

SAM: Mr. President, when will you address Congress?

LMR: As you know, Sam, I've already mixed with members in the cloakroom and mingled with them over lunch at the White House. Nevertheless, I'm not going to stand before them in Congress until they stand behind me in concert. Sarah?

SARAH: Mr. President, I understood that Mrs. Ross would be here today. Would you care to comment on that?

LMR: Well, Mary told me to give you reporters her regrets. Today, she took USAir to Alabama to have our tailor make the pants she plans to wear in the Oval Office.



UAB University Hospital continues to be listed among the top 87 health care facilities in the country in the newest edition of the consumer reference book *The Best Hospitals in America*. Hospitals were ranked based on recommendations from physicians across the United States and information from government sources, professional and popular publications, and hospital surveys or interviews.

UAB physicians listed in the book as top specialists in their field include J. Claude Bennett, M.D., John Cuckler, M.D., Arnold G. Diethelm, M.D., John Hauth, M.D., James K. Kirklin, M.D., William Koopman, M.D., Albert F. LoBuglio, M.D., Albert Pacifico, M.D., Gerald Pohost, M.D., Gary Roubin, M.D., Sergio Stagno, M.D., David Warnock, M.D., John Whitaker, M.D., and Richard Whitley, M.D. The book also talks about The Kirklin Clinic and describes the types of specialized treatment and equipment available at University Hospital.

For a healthier mind, body & spirit

Get Discounts on Flu Shots and Pneumococcal Vaccinations This Fall

MedWise members will receive a discount on flu shots and pneumococcal vaccinations at The Kirklin Clinic and the UAB satellite clinics on selected dates this fall. To receive your discount, you must show your MedWise card at the time of your appointment.

Flu shots will cost $10 apiece (regularly $20). The pneumococcal vaccine will be available at $20 per vaccination (regularly $28). Insurance will be filed for Medicare patients. Payment may be made by cash, check, Visa, or MasterCard at the time of your visit.

A yearly flu shot is recommended for everyone 65 or better, as well as for individuals under age 65 who work in a health care setting or who suffer from chronic illnesses such as diabetes mellitus, congestive heart failure, chronic obstruction pulmonary disease, emphysema, and HIV disease.

A word of warning: You should not take the influenza vaccine if you are allergic to eggs or have an active infection with fever.

If you are older than 55, it is also advisable to receive the pneumococcal vaccine, or pneumovax, as protection against pneumococcal pneumonia. It can be given with your flu shot.

You MUST have a doctor's prescription to receive pneumococcal vaccine. You should not take the vaccine if you have Hodgkin's disease or an active infection with fever.

Vaccinations will be offered at the following locations and times:

The Kirklin Clinic at UAB
2000 6th Avenue South
Internal Medicine Group, 2nd floor
Saturday, September 30, 8 a.m. until noon,
and Saturday, October 7, 8 a.m. until noon
Free parking is available in The Kirklin Clinic deck;
the deck entrance is on 6th Avenue South,
between 21st and 22nd Streets.

UAB Clinic Bessemer
700 Memorial Drive (Bessemer Carraway campus)
Saturday, September 30, 8 a.m. until noon

UAB Clinic Inverness
1250 Inverness Corners Shopping Center
Saturday, September 30, 8 a.m. until noon,
and Saturday, October 7, 8 a.m. until noon

UAB Clinic Roebuck
9709 Roebuck Parkway East
Saturday, September 30, 8 a.m. until noon,
and Saturday, October 7, 8 a.m. until noon

All vaccinations will be given by appointment only.
To schedule an appointment, call UAB HealthFinder at 934-9999
or toll free 1-800-822-8816. Call early – appointment times are limited,
and appointments are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Keeping the Influenza Virus at Bay

By Julius Linn, M.D.

Getting a flu shot this fall can substantially cut your risks of getting influenza this winter. In the United States, the flu season generally lasts from November through April. Here are some questions people often ask us about the influenza vaccine.

Do I need a flu shot?

It depends on your age and health. If you are 65 or better, you need a flu shot each year because you are more susceptible to ill effects and complications of the flu, such as pneumonia, than someone younger. Recognizing this fact, Medicare now covers influenza shots. People any age with heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or diseases that affect the immune system, as well as those who live in nursing homes or other institutional settings, also need the yearly shot, as do those caring for elderly or chronically ill people. People who want to cut their chances of getting the flu are candidates as well.

Do I really need a shot each year?

Yes. The influenza viruses often change their makeup from year to year, so the shot you got last year may not cover the type influenza viruses expected to cause disease this year. The 1996 vaccine contains two new variants, a Johannesburg strain and a Harbin strain, along with the Texan strain in last year's vaccine. Even if the vaccine remained the same, you would need a yearly shot, because the vaccine's protection wanes after a few months.

Is there a chance the vaccination will "give" me the flu?

No. Because killed viruses are used to make today's vaccine, you cannot get influenza from the shot. In fact, most people have had no side effects from the recent influenza vaccines. Those who do develop an adverse reaction usually experience only some soreness for a day or two around the vaccination site in the arm. A few people experience a low-grade fever and mild muscle aches after the shot. If you are allergic to eggs, you should not take the vaccine since the viruses used to produce it are grown in eggs.

I took the vaccine last year and still got the flu, so why should I take it again?

It's true that from 10 percent to 30 percent of people who take the vaccine will still get influenza. Even though the vaccine does not provide 100 percent protection, your symptoms will likely be less severe and last for a shorter time if you've had the vaccine. Furthermore, you're less likely to have serious complications that sometimes require hospitalization if you've had the vaccine. In fact, a sizable number of people die each year from influenza-related complications. It's important to realize, however, that the shot protects you only against influenza, not from the common cold or allergies, which produce some of the same symptoms as the flu.

For free physician and health care referral,
call UAB HealthFinder at 934-9999;
if outside Jefferson County, call 1-800-822-8816 toll free.

— CLINICAL TRIALS —

Wellness Research

Clinical trials offer opportunities to participate voluntarily in research studies testing new drugs, treatments, or diagnostic techniques that may one day become standard therapies used worldwide.

DIABETES STUDY

If you have either insulin-dependent or non-insulin-dependent diabetes, you may qualify to participate in a research study. If you qualify, you could receive free medication, physical examinations, and laboratory evaluations. For more information call the University Consortium for Clinical Research at 934-2355.

URINE LEAKAGE AFTER PROSTATE SURGERY?

If you are a man who still has a problem with urine leakage six months after prostate surgery, you may qualify for a study of a new treatment. Men who qualify for the study will receive a free examination, free bladder testing, and free treatment involving electrical stimulation of the pelvic muscles.

For more information call the UAB Continence Program, Jan Steading, R.N., at 934-7772, or Claudia Hardy, M.P.A., at 934-7565.

SPECIAL MEMORY SCREENING PROGRAM

Research tells us that memory loss is a normal part of aging. Sometimes, though, we need to be reassured that our occasional forgetfulness is simply age-related.

The Department of Neurology and the Alzheimer's Disease Center at UAB are pleased to offer their Healthy Memory Screening Program for older adults. The memory screening takes about two hours and provides a comprehensive profile of memory function.

Trained neuropsychologists and their staff will discuss the test results with you and offer specific recommendations regarding memory function and follow-up care.

The Healthy Memory Screening is offered to UAB MedWise members at the special rate of $75. For more information call the Clinical Neuropsychology Laboratory at 934-2334.

STROKE

If you had a stroke more than one year ago and do not use your impaired arm very much, you may be eligible for free treatment with new techniques that have been shown to be effective for improving movement after stroke. For more information call 975-9799 and leave a message, including your phone number.

DENTAL IMPLANT STUDY

Are your dentures loose? Dentists in the Periodontal Research Clinic at UAB are looking for patients who may benefit from dental implant-supported lower dentures. If you are in good general health, between the ages of 18 and 70, have no lower teeth or wear a complete lower denture, and do not use tobacco, you may qualify for their study.

Dental implants will be placed in the lower jaw, and new replacement teeth will be firmly attached. The goal is to reduce problems related to lower dentures. Participants will receive the treatment for a reduced fee. For a free screening appointment, call 934-1503.

If you live outside Jefferson County, call 1-800-822-8816 for more information.

An Ounce of Prevention – Worth More Than a Pound of Cure

By Julius Linn, M.D.

UAB MedWise wants you to get an ounce, and more, of prevention. MedWise will soon offer a series of benefits aimed at helping you stay well and out of the hospital. With guidance from your doctor and other health-care professionals, there's a lot you can do to stay well and catch problems early when they can sometimes be thwarted, or at least treated more successfully.

For example, as hard as it may be to change your diet and exercise habits to halt the artery-clogging process that leads to heart disease and stroke, it's easier than waiting until arteries are clogged and need to be reamed out.

Eating right, exercising regularly, achieving and maintaining a normal weight, wearing your seat belts, avoiding tobacco, and having periodic examinations by your doctor can keep you as healthy as possible for as long as possible. Rather than the shotgun "annual physicals" of yesteryear that included a broad array of laboratory tests and x-rays, today's more targeted periodic examination is tailored to your age, identifiable risk factors, and life-style. Handpicked tests and counseling appropriate to your age, sex, family history, personal health habits, and how you live your daily life are far more likely to help you stay well than the multiple tests of yore.

The point is that you must choose a doctor you are comfortable with, work out a routine program of screening for problems you are at risk for, and assume some responsibility for making changes in the way you live that will improve your health profile. MedWise's wellness option can help you do that.

Assessing Your Health Profile

While your doctor will work with you to address specific problems you may have such as excess weight, everyone over 50 can benefit from regular screening for common problems. For example, men and women over 50 need an annual fecal occult blood test for colorectal cancer and a sigmoidoscopy every three to five years. Caught early, this disease can be cured.

Because even mild elevations of blood pressure can lead to heart attack, stroke, and kidney disease, make sure it's checked every time you visit the doctor or at least every two years. Have your cholesterol checked at least every five years if it's normal, more often if it has been high or you have a family history of heart disease.

Women over 40 should undergo a yearly breast exam by a physician, and women over 50 should have an annual mammogram. The American Cancer Society recommends mammograms every one to two years from age 40 to 50. Women also should have a Papanicolaou (Pap) smear for cervical cancer every one to three years beginning at age of first intercourse. Some experts say that a woman who has had normal Pap smears all her life doesn't need the test after age 65. But others recommend regular tests throughout a woman's life. It will depend on your individual situation.

Men should have an annual digital rectal examination for prostate cancer after age 40. Controversy continues over the use of a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test as a screening tool for prostate cancer. This is another issue on which you need advice from your doctor.

And remember that everyone needs a tetanus-diphtheria booster every 10 years. Mark your 65th birthday by having a pneumococcal vaccination to ward off pneumococcal pneumonia and by beginning annual influenza vaccinations, if you haven't already done so. While you need a flu shot each year after 65, you only need one pneumonia vaccination.

By discussing your current health status with your doctor and assessing what you need to do to improve your health profile, you will have taken the first steps on the road to a healthier life.

10 TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER LIFE

Here are 10 ways you can improve your health. Try working on one or two at a time and incorporating them into your life until they become healthy habits.

1. Eat more fruits and vegetables (at least five servings a day), more fiber, and less fat.

2. Exercise for 20 to 30 minutes at least three times a week.

3. Wear a seat belt every time you get in a car.

4. Maintain a healthy weight through proper diet and exercise. Obesity is a risk factor for nearly every chronic life-style illness.

5. Aim for eight hours of sleep every night – or whatever amount of slumber makes you feel rested and alert when you wake up.

6. Keep tabs on your health. Select a doctor you trust and work out a schedule of regular checkups.

7. Drink alcohol in moderation, if you drink – no more than two, and preferably one, drink a day.

8. Quit smoking now, if you smoke.

9. Learn how to identify and handle stress. Take at least 15 minutes a day to relax and re-energize. Simplify your life as much as possible.

10. Develop a sense of humor and smile – it's contagious.

Don't forget to protect your eyes as well as your skin while you're out and about in the summer sun. Excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun can lead to a number of eye diseases, according to UAB optometrist Leo Semes, O. D. Fortunately, eye protection is inexpensive, says Dr. Semes, who cautions against buying sunglasses that don't provide complete protection against the sun's rays.

"Before buying sunglasses, consumers should be sure they provide 99 or 100 percent protection against both UVA and UVB rays," he adds. Such glasses are clearly labeled. Glasses that merely claim to block harmful UV radiation should be avoided.

1996 Grande Tier Travel Fair, September 7th

We've got so many exciting things planned for Grande Tier travelers in 1996 that space won't permit us to describe them all in this month's newspaper. We'll be telling you more about them at our September 7 travel fair. In the meantime, here are some of the highlights – just to tantalize you!

London Theatre and Harrods Shopping Tour (6 days)

Classic Panama Canal Cruise (Acapulco to San Juan aboard the *Royal Princess*) (10 days)

Alaska and the Yukon (includes southbound cruise aboard the *Sky Princess*) (13 days)

Spain and Portugal (15 days)

Italy (13 days)

Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island (10 days)

Ireland (10 days)

Hawaii, Four Islands (Oahu, Kauai, Hawaii, Maui) (13 days)

California New Year's (includes the Tournament of Roses Parade) (9 days)

Make plans now to come and learn more about these and other exciting travel opportunities at the Grande Tier fall travel fair, Thursday, September 7, 6:30 p.m., Liberty National Building, first floor auditorium, 20th Street and 3rd Avenue South (see page 8 for details). And look for information on departure dates, prices, and MedWise Visa discounts in the September issue of the MedWise newspaper.

For complete day-to-day itineraries and reservations, call 975-8000 or toll free 1-800-822-8816.

Happy Holidays from Grande Tier

CALLAWAY GARDENS "FANTASY IN LIGHTS"
Monday, December 4,
and Tuesday, December 5, 1995
Rate: $189 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $50 per person, due upon booking, with balance due October 30, 1995

CHRISTMAS IN BRANSON
Monday, December 4,
through Thursday, December 7, 1995
Rate: $479 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $100 per person, due upon booking, with balance due October 30, 1995

CHRISTMAS AT THE BILTMORE IN ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
Thursday, December 7,
through Saturday, December 9, 1995
Rate: $274 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $75 per person, due upon booking, with balance due November 2, 1995

CHRISTMAS IN BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY
Monday, December 11,
through Wednesday, December 13, 1995
Rate: $349 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $50, due upon booking,
with balance due November 6, 1995

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS AT OPRYLAND HOTEL: THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday, December 11,
through Wednesday, December 13, 1995
Rate: $408 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $50 per person, due upon booking,
with balance due November 6, 1995

What You Need to Remember About Grande Tier Travel and Theatre

1. Persons of all ages are welcome to travel with Grande Tier.
2. All Grande Tier tours and theatre packages are competitively priced, value-packed, and comfortably paced.
3. Reservations for all Collette individual and group tours, international and domestic, are available through Grande Tier.
4. Bona fide cash discounts on Collette tours and cruise tours are available only through Grande Tier and only when you charge the cost of your tour to the no-annual-fee MedWise Visa card.
5. Reservations for all Landmark Tour and Travel individual and group tours are available through Grande Tier.
6. No matter where you live, we'll arrange speedy travel connections for you as one of our group travelers.
7. For your good health and everyone's comfort, smoking is not permitted within Grande Tier group gatherings.
8. For more information about friendly, exciting travel around the world, call Sherry Womble, Grande Tier travel coordinator, at 975-8000 or 1-800-822-8816.

All Collette Tours Are Available through Grande Tier!

If you'd like to go somewhere that's not included in one of our published tours, we urge you to give us a call. Collette Tours offers excursions to hundreds of destinations worldwide, most with a choice of departure dates, and reservations for all of them can be made through Grande Tier. Collette also offers most of our MedWise tours on several additional dates, so you don't have to miss out on a trip that interests you because it's scheduled at an inconvenient time. Another plus: When you charge your Collette tour to your MedWise Visa Card, you get a discount on the cost of your tour! For more information and to make reservations, call 975-8000 or toll free 1-800-822-8816.

GRANDE TIER
TRAVEL AND THEATRE FROM UAB MEDWISE
For more information and to make reservations, call 975-8000 or toll free 1-800-822-8816

Attention Church Groups, Civic Groups, Garden Clubs, and Others Who Travel Together

Are you tired of the hassle of making hotel and restaurant reservations, chartering buses and vans, and coordinating the hundreds of other details necessary to arrange a trip for your group? One of our UAB MedWise Grande Tier representatives will be happy to do it for you.

We can make arrangements for group tours to just about anywhere you'd like to go, whether it's Branson, Missouri, or Sydney, Australia! And of course, space permitting, groups are always welcome on all of our regularly scheduled Grande Tier tours.

For more information on group travel, just give us a call at 975-8000 or toll free 1-800-822-8816. Then sit back and relax, and let us do the work!

Your MedWise Benefits: Money in the Bank

Have you stopped to think how much your MedWise benefits are really worth? Every time you take advantage of one of the special privileges of MedWise membership, it's like putting money in the bank. To give you an idea of just how valuable your MedWise membership is, we've listed some of the amounts you'll save when you use your hospital benefits:

- Medical Center Parking – save more than $24 per year if you park at the medical center just six days per year
- private room (when available) at the semiprivate rate – save $16-$20 per day
- 50 percent discount on upgrade to a Camellia Pavilion suite – save $10 per day
- annual credit on out-of-pocket hospital charges not covered by insurance – save $200 per year
- 50 percent discount on one guest meal per day in the UAB University Hospital cafeterias – save up to $4 per day
- up to three free visits from a UAB Home Care Services health aide when recommended by a UAB physician – save up to $114
- 50 percent discount on UAB Lung Health Center's "Quitting for Life" smoking cessation program – save $42.50
- 50 percent discount on influenza immunizations – save $10
- 30 percent discount on pneumococcal vaccine – save $8

Plus, you get discounts on prescriptions at the University Hospital, Kirklin Clinic, and Community Health Services – Family Practice pharmacies, discounts on items not covered by insurance at UAB Durable Medical Equipment, discounts on purchases in the hospital gift shop, and discounts on the UAB Nutrition Clinic's Eat Right Program.

Using your MedWise benefits really pays!

Sincerely Yours

Dear George,

Congratulations on receiving the UAB President's Medal and on a very good British Heritage Tour.

We both enjoyed seeing the "wonders" of this world, but the best part is always the people we meet. You and Lucia certainly enriched the trip.

Sherry Womble was our contact person for information about the trip. She did a good job, and we appreciate her.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for continued success with MedWise.

Sincerely,

Fred and Rebecca Huffman
Gilbertsville, Kentucky

Get Away This Fall with Grande Tier

BRANSON, MISSOURI,
AND THE BEAUTIFUL OZARKS
FALL TOUR
Tuesday, September 5,
through Friday, September 8, 1995
Rate: $460 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $100 per person, due upon booking,
with balance due August 5, 1995

LET'S TOUR TEXAS,
"THE LONE STAR STATE," AND
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI
Monday, October 9,
through Monday, October 16, 1995
Rate: $882 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $200 per person, due upon booking,
with balance due September 1, 1995

THE FALL SPLENDOR OF
THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY AND
THE FAMOUS GREENBRIER
Monday, October 16,
through Friday, October 20, 1995
Rate: $781 per person (double occupancy)
Deposit: $100 per person, due upon booking,
with balance due September 11, 1995
There are only a few places remaining
on this trip, so if you want to go, call today.
Don't be disappointed!

GRANDE TIER
TRAVEL AND THEATRE FROM UAB MEDWISE

For day-to-day itineraries and reservations, call 975-8000 or toll free 1-800-822-8816.

Answers to Grande Tier Travel Q&A

(from page 2)

1. Branson, Missouri. You can listen to the music and admire the fall foliage on our Branson, Missouri, and the Beautiful Ozarks Fall Tour.
2. Austin, Texas. The winged mammals hang out under the Congress Avenue Bridge. If you're lucky and the weather's still warm, you may see them on your exploration of Austin during your Let's Tour Texas, "The Lone Star State," and Vicksburg, Mississippi, vacation.
3. The Greenbrier, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. A stay at the elegant Greenbrier, which consistently earns the coveted Mobil Five Star and AAA Five Diamond Awards, is a highlight of The Fall Splendor of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Famous Greenbrier tour.

UAB TRAVEL CENTER

For airline reservations other than Grande Tier travel, call 934-2099 or toll free 1-800-635-7139.

USAir
USAir begins with you

Second Wind

I am now a 74-years-young woman. In November I will be 75 years young.

When I retired from teaching kindergarten and daily religious school, I was not ready to retire. My first venture was to become a lap swimmer. Now, I swim 50 laps every single morning except on our Sabbath. Then I renewed my teachers' certificate and became a substitute teacher in the Mountain Brook School System. My husband is in business, and I help out there every single day, even making deliveries when necessary.

I attend every single basketball and hockey game – I have not missed a hockey game in 13 years, and I am an avid UAB Blazers Basketball fan. I also attend every play at Birmingham-Southern College and help support them. And I am proud to belong to MedWise and attend its functions.

How lucky I am to be rewarded with good health so I can be active in these events! Twice a week, you will find me on the tennis courts at Sharpsburg, and twice a week I am playing team tennis at Pinetree Country Club. I also run a household for which I cook and bake every meal. I use all of my free time, and how thankful I am!

Bertha K. Luks
Birmingham, Alabama

Thanks, Bertha, for telling us about your "Second Wind." We're sending you two theater passes, compliments of UAB MedWise!

How about it members? Have you found a unique or interesting way to stay active after retirement?

Tell us, in 200 words or less, about productive or rewarding ways you've found to use your free time. If we print your letter, you'll receive two free theater passes – and the satisfaction of sharing your success with other members. Write us today: Second Wind, UAB MedWise, Medical Towers, Suite 508, Birmingham, Alabama 35294.

Places to Go... People to See...

Monday, August 7, through Sunday, August 13
Birmingham Summerfest 1995 performances – *The King and I.* Showtime is 7:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday. A light meal will be served beginning an hour before each show. All performances are at Boutwell Auditorium, 1930 8th Avenue North. Tickets can be purchased at the Boutwell Auditorium Box Office and range in price from $7.50 to $23 for MedWise members. Parking is available in the Boutwell parking deck. Call 254-7797 for more information.

Wednesday, August 9 – 9:30 a.m.
FREE! August InfoTalk, "Saving Time, Money, and Anguish with Elder Care Planning," presented by Anne R. Moses and Mary Lynn Campisi, attorneys at law and co-chairs of the Birmingham Bar Association's Elder Care Services Committee. See below for details. Free parking is available in the Liberty National Building deck. Just bring your parking ticket to the InfoTalk, and we'll validate it for you. Free refreshments.

Sunday, August 13, through Thursday, August 24
FREE! "Student Exhibition III," third in a series of exhibitions of work by UAB art students, UAB Visual Arts Gallery, 900 13th Street South. Gallery hours are Sunday, 2-6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 1-6 p.m., and by appointment. For more information call 934-0815. A limited amount of parking is available on the street.

Thursday, September 7 – 6:30 p.m.
FREE! UAB MedWise Grande Tier Fall Travel Fair. See details at right. Free parking is available in the Liberty National Building deck. Just bring your parking ticket to the party, and we'll validate it for you. Free refreshments, door prizes.

Saturday, October 21 – 6 p.m.
UAB MedWise Trip the Light Fantastic Gala 1995 – see details on pages 1 and 12.

For more information on discounted tickets for special events, call the UAB Ticket Office at 934-8001.

Come Help Us Celebrate the Beginning of Grande Tier's Second Year at Our

Fall Travel Fair

Thursday, September 7, 1995, 6:30 p.m.
Liberty National Building, First Floor Auditorium
20th Street and 3rd Avenue South
Free Parking! Free Admission! Free Refreshments!
Door Prizes!

Everyone Welcome

Join the MedWise staff and hear about some of the exciting travel we're planning for 1996. Meet Mike Daly of Collette Tours, who'll be on hand to talk about some of the trips we'll be offering through Collette, show slides, and answer your travel questions. Welcome Deanne Hays of A & I Travel, who represents Princess Cruise Lines. And say hello to Nell Spivey and Linda Fryer of Landmark Tour and Travel, who'll be handing out information and answering questions about theatre and theme vacations via luxury motorcoach.

Parking is free in the Liberty National Building deck. The deck entrance is on 3rd Avenue South, between 20th and 21st Streets. Don't forget to bring your parking ticket to the party so we can validate it!

For party reservations, call 934-9999 or toll free 1-800-822-8816.

GRANDE TIER
TRAVEL AND THEATRE FROM UAB MEDWISE

August InfoTalk
"Saving Time, Money, and Anguish with Elder Care Planning"

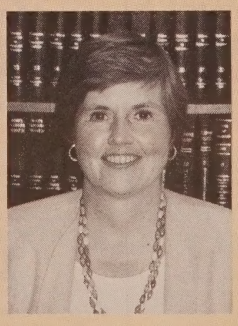
Presented by
Anne R. Moses and Mary Lynn Campisi,
attorneys at law and co-chairs, Birmingham Bar Association's Elder Care Services

Wednesday, August 9, 1995, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Liberty National Building • First Floor Auditorium, 20th Street and 3rd Avenue South
Free Admission! • Free Refreshments! • Bring Interested Friends!

Discover how planning now lets you take control of your future. You'll learn:

- how to pass along your assets to your loved ones, not the government or relatives you don't like
- about decisions you can make now regarding issues that may affect you if you become ill or injured
- about wills, trusts, advance directives, powers of attorney, Medicaid, and other elder care planning issues

Free parking is available in the Liberty National Building deck. Bring your parking ticket to the InfoTalk, and we'll validate it. The deck entrance is located on 3rd Avenue South between 20th and 21st Streets.



Anne R. Moses

Mary Lynn Campisi

Admission is by registration only.
Call UAB HealthFinder at 934-9999 or toll free 1-800-822-8816 for reservations.

Special Studies Offers Something for Everyone

Have you always had a secret yearning to become an expert photographer? To be able to identify the hundreds of species of birds in Alabama? To play the banjo? Maybe you'd really like to learn something about computers but feel daunted by the vast quantities of hardware and software on the market – not to mention all of those salesclerks who assume that everybody is fluent in "computerese." Or maybe you'd like to get back in shape but don't think you can do it on your own.

Whether you're interested in sampling new subjects, getting started in an exercise regimen, or just polishing up old skills that have gotten rusty over the years, chances are that UAB Special Studies has just the right course for you. Here are a few of the great classes they're offering this fall:

•**Personal Computing for Senior Citizens,** November 14 - December 12, Tuesdays, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. This course is specially designed to introduce people over 50 to the fascinating world of personal computing.

•**Buying Your First Computer: A Survival Course,** September 7 - 21, Thursdays, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., or November 2 - 16, Thursdays, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Learn the various components of a PC system, get an introduction to computer lingo, and learn how to choose a PC with systems requirements suitable to your specific needs.

• **Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement,** September 19 - October 10, Tuesdays, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., or October 19 - November 9, Thursdays, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Learn the key concepts and practices of wise money management for retirement.

• **Beginning French,** September 20 - November 1, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learn the skills you'll need to communicate while traveling in French-speaking countries.

• **Beginning/Intermediate Spanish,** September 18 - October 30, Mondays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. This intensive beginners' course is excellent for travelers and others who often have contact with Spanish-speaking people.

• **Beginning Italian,** September 18 - October 30, Mondays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learn the fundamentals of conversational Italian, one of the most beautiful and expressive languages in the world.

• **Intro to 35 mm Techniques,** September 20 - October 25, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., or September 21 - October 26, Thursdays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learn about film speeds, shutter speeds, f-stops, and light, how to care for your equipment, and how to load and unload film.

• **Beginning Bird Identification,** September 18 - November 6, Mondays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learn how to identify many of the nearly 400 species of birds who frequent Alabama.

• **Fiction Writing,** September 21 - November 2, Thursdays, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Even if you have little or no previous writing experience, this course can bring out the aspiring writer in you!

• **Beginning Drawing and Sketching,** September 18 - October 30, Mondays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learn to draw with pencil, pen and ink, conte crayon, and other media.

• **Intro to Antiques,** September 18 - October 23, Mondays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Discover fascinating facts about the historic periods of furniture, glass, pottery, and porcelain.

• **Beginning Ballroom Dance,** September 19 - October 24, Tuesdays, 7:05 p.m. - 8:05 p.m. Make new friends while learning to dance the foxtrot, jitterbug, waltz, and cha-cha.

• **Tai Chi: Dance Movement for Exercise,** September 18 - November 6, Mondays, 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. Improve your stamina and balance with this ancient Chinese system of movement and meditation.

• **Beginning Banjo,** September 20 - November 1, Wednesdays, 7:35 p.m. - 8:35 p.m. Bring a five-string banjo and picks to class and learn the basics of banjo pickin'!

• **Festive Treats from the Kitchen,** October 21, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Learn to create wonderful holiday gifts without leaving your kitchen.

• **Low Impact Aerobics/Bench Aerobics,** September 18 - October 18, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:15 p.m. - 6 p.m., or October 23 - November 22, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:15 p.m. - 6 p.m. Get a high-energy workout in this coed fitness class.

• **Basic Massage Techniques for Relaxation,** September 20 - October 25, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learn the fundamentals of massage to relax muscles and reduce stress.

For more information on these and other classes and to register, call UAB Special Studies at 934-8263.

Thank You, Frances and Ted!

The MedWise staff extend their heartfelt thanks to volunteers Frances Perreault and Ted Clements for the dependable, efficient, cheerful help they provide at our Medical Towers office. Frances and Ted, you are both very much appreciated by each and every one of us!

We can always use an extra pair of hands around the MedWise offices. We need volunteers to place and answer calls, verify information, enter data, stuff envelopes, and perform other routine office tasks. Hours are flexible, and the only qualification we require is that you enjoy working with people. For more information or to volunteer, please call us at 975-8000.

Frances Perreault

Ted Clements

Announcing the Winners of Our Spring Art Exhibition

Lillian Greenwald's *The Cabin* was chosen as Best of Show at the fifth annual UAB MedWise art exhibition. This year's exhibition, which opened with a reception at Sterne Library on May 6 and ran throughout the month, featured the work of 26 talented MedWise artists. In addition to the Best of Show category, winners were chosen from each of the six categories of artwork on display: paintings, watercolors, photographs, sculpture, prints, and drawings. The winners, by category, are listed below.

Paintings
First place – *Cape Town*, by **Betty C. Grady**
Second place – *On the Beach*, by **Dorothy K. Underwood**
Third place – *Spotted Horse*, by **Mary King Dunkin**

Watercolors
First place – *April Snow*, by **Marilyn A. Moynihan**
Second place – *Hibiscus*, by **Frankie M. Ellis**
Third place – *Carlotta's Garden*, by **Mildred Cohn**

Best of Show, *The Cabin*, by Lillian Greenwald

Thanks to everybody who worked to make this year's art exhibition possible.

Photographs
First place – *Reflections*, by **Perry Forman**
Second place – *Silver Sea*, by **Ouida Kinzey**
Third place – *Misty Fjord*, by **W. F. Cox**

Sculpture
First place – *Ambiguous Mermaid*, by **Dale O. Beshears**
Second place – *Five of the Twelve*, by **Charles Vallely**
Third place – *Almost Me*, by **Eloise Piper**

Prints
First place – *Trees*, by **Evelyn Hunker**
Second place – *Designed by Nature*, by **Eloise Piper**

Drawings
First place – *Simon Is Waiting*, by **Eloise Piper**

Three additional works received Honorable Mention: *Flower Garden*, by **Heidi J. Bowman**; *Sunset at Grand Tetons*, by **Frances L. Cox**; and *The Sand Pit*, by **Kathleen Pilleteri**.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of the MedWise artists who participated in this year's spring art exhibition. And we extend special thanks to **Samuel Barker**, Ph.D., professor emeritus and art connoisseur; **Antoinette Spanos Nordan**, curator of the UAB Visual Arts Gallery; **Jerry W. Stephens**, Ph.D., director of Sterne Library; and Sterne Library administrator **Betty M. Hill**, without whose cooperation the event would not have been such a resounding success.

Look What We've Added to Your MedWise Benefits!

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail-Oxmoor Valley

Every Tuesday is MedWise Day at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail – Oxmoor Valley. MedWise members who show their membership card can play Oxmoor Valley's Short Course for only $9 (plus tax) per person – the cost of renting a golf cart! The only restrictions are that you call a week in advance to reserve a tee time and give at least 24 hours' notice if you have to cancel.

To reserve a tee time, call Oxmoor Valley at 942-0444.

Adamson Ford

At Adamson Ford, 1922 2nd Avenue South, you can buy any new Ford car, truck, or van (except Explorer) for $100 over the invoice cost. In addition, Adamson Ford will provide free shuttle service to and from the medical center or downtown Birmingham while the vehicle is being serviced and a 10 percent discount on parts and service (12% if the cost is charged to a MedWise Visa).

Bresco (restaurant supply)

Present your MedWise card at Bresco restaurant supply, 2428 6th Avenue South, and you'll receive a 15 percent discount (20 percent if you charge your purchases to your MedWise Visa card) on commercial kitchen equipment, including cookware, china, glassware, flatware, appliances, and furnishings.

SportPlex

SportPlex will enroll you as a member absolutely free when you present your MedWise card. The monthly fee for MedWise members is $34 per person and $41 per couple. Membership is renewed monthly, so there's no contract to sign, and you can cancel with no penalty (30 days' notice is required). And when you charge your monthly fee to your MedWise Visa, you'll receive one month's membership per year absolutely free.

SportPlex is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. In Birmingham, there are three convenient locations: Roebuck, 500 Gadsden Highway, 838-1213; Inverness, 4766 Highway 280, 980-1077; and Hoover, 3447 Lorna Road, 822-8763. Call the nearest location for details.

Special rates are also available to MedWise members at the Mobile location, 6400 Piccadilly Square Drive. Call (334) 342-1777 for more information.

Cafe New Orleans

When you enjoy the fine New Orleans and Southern cuisine at Cafe New Orleans, you'll receive a 10 percent discount with your MedWise card. Located on the lower level of Brookwood Village, Cafe New Orleans is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Birmingham's most beautiful brunch. Call 868-9398 for reservations.

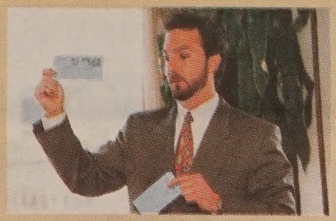
Aquatics Program at Spain Rehabilitation Center

You're all invited to participate in the Aquatics Program at Spain Rehabilitation Center's Mickey Pizitz Memorial Pool. Cost of the Dolphin Program aqua aerobics class, which meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, is $30 per month. Participants have a choice of two class sessions, one beginning at 10 a.m. and another at 11 a.m. The center's Community Pool Program is also open to MedWise members. For only $20 per month, participants may use the pool independently from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Full-service locker rooms are available, and towels and lockers are provided at no extra charge.

The Mickey Pizitz Memorial Pool is located on the first floor of Spain Rehabilitation Center, 1717 6th Avenue South. MedWise members can park free in the lot directly in front of the center. For more information on the Spain Rehabilitation Center Aquatics Program, call 934-1163.

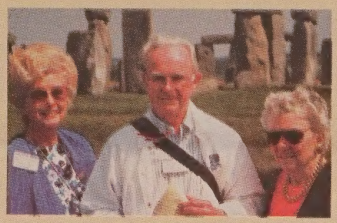
Be prepared to show your MedWise card to receive these and all other benefits.

Grande Tier British Heritage Tour
MedWise Travelers Photo Album

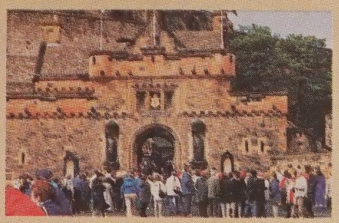


Collette Tours' Mike Daly at the bon voyage party

Emily and Alan Smith



Betty Eskridge with Hi and Noni Elliott



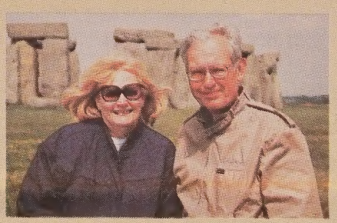
Edinburgh Castle, Scotland

Baron George and Baroness Lucia, their most noble ones!

At the Ruthin Castle Medieval Banquet

Fred and Rebecca Huffman

Mary McKinney, Janet Mahoney, and Esther Archuleta



Eileen and Wes Libb

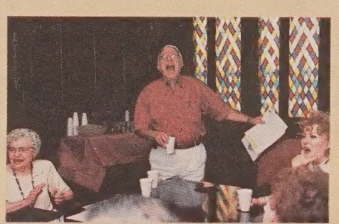
Bill and Ruth Stewart

Ernest and Myrna Swain

Bonnie Russell and Kathryn Leever

Louise Sensabaugh and Grace Kyser

Lucia Mickwee, James and Dean Welborn at the reunion party.



The reunion party was enjoyed by all ... especially George!

Continued from page 1

Harrods, Jenners, Marks and Spencer, Pitlochry, cucumber sandwiches, bagpipes, kilts and knickers, River Thames, Loch Lomond, Loch Ness and the monster, wee bit, monasteries, castles and ruins dating back to the 10th century . . .

Grasmere, Inverness, Glasgow, Ruthin Castle, peacocks, War of the Roses, Blenheim Palace, Coventry, William Shakespeare's birthplace and grave, Anne Hathaway's home, King Henry VIII, Westminster, York Minster, Tower of London, cobblestone streets, gingerbread, scones, *The Taming of the Shrew*, a Scottish night, medieval banquet, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, queues, the loo, blood sausages, mead, haggis, fish and chips, free-range eggs, kippers, prunes! . . .

The Honors of Scotland, high tea, "spitting, skipping, and whistling in the aisles not permitted," the Crown Jewels, Benedict's, The Palms, "I Love a Lassie," bonnie bluebells, Shambles, pubs and more pubs, the Changing of the Guard, Beefeaters, Kensington Gardens, wonderfully nice travel mates, reunion party. . . . And the list goes on and on and on.

If you're looking for the right group to travel with, why not give us a try? Plan now to join us on one of our future Grande Tier trips (see page 6 for a preview of our 1996 travel plans). We promise that you'll come home with a suitcase full of wonderful memories!

For the happy smiles of some of our Grande Tier travelers, see above.

By George Mickwee, director, UAB MedWise

UAB MEDWISE SIXTH ANNUAL GALA
TRIP THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

Saturday, October 21, 1995
Featuring Elegant Dinner Dancing
to the Music of the Joe Giattina Orchestra

Gathering (Cash Bar), 5:30 p.m. • Dinner, 6 p.m. • Dancing, 7 to 10 p.m.
The Club, Atop Red Mountain • Dress: Sunday Fancy

Grand door prize is airfare for two good for travel anywhere in the continental United States, courtesy of USAir. Some restrictions apply.

Request for Admission Tickets

Please send _____ ticket(s) at $25 each (includes dinner and dancing) for MedWise members and _____ ticket(s) at $30 each for nonmembers.

A total of _____ is enclosed in a check (do not send cash) payable to UAB MedWise, 508 Medical Towers, 1717 11th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama, 35294-4410.

Remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope in which we can return your tickets.

Reserve your own table! Each table seats 8 people. If your group has 3 or more persons, you may reserve seats together under **one** name. Open seating for all others.

Do you wish reservations for 3 or more? Y N (circle one) How many? _____

Reserve under which name? _____

MedWise 7-digit membership number _____

Your name (print) _____

Mailing address _____

City, state, zip _____

Seating is very, very limited, and we recommend that you reserve early to avoid disappointment. Tickets will be mailed beginning October 1, 1995.

Use your MedWise Visa, and you could have the chance to tell this guy he's got a funny hat.

But be careful, he's armed! For years, people have tried unsuccessfully to make the palace guards smile. Now you can take your chance - if you win our sweepstakes. Our grand prize includes two complimentary 6-day/4-night London theatre and shopping packages for travel before March 31, 1996. And it can all be yours simply by using your MedWise Visa! (Some restrictions apply.)

To qualify, call 934-9999 or 1-800-822-8816 apply for a MedWise Visa or use your existing card through December 31, 1995. Each time you use your MedWise Visa, you'll be increasing your chances of winning this incredible vacation for two, courtesy of Collette Tours and UAB MedWise.

COLLETTE TOURS

UAB MedWise
Medical Towers Suite 508
1717 11th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294-4410

Dated Material Inside

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1256
Birmingham, AL

Forward and Address Correction Requested

Has your address changed? Call 975-8000 or 1-800-822-8816 toll free

*****CAR-RT-SORT**C-026
SHIRLEY LAMBERT
911 VALLEY AVE APT G
BIRMINGHAM AL 35209-2122

KEEP THIS ISSUE

The University of Alabama at Birmingham administers its educational programs and activities, including admission, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or Vietnam era or disabled veteran status. (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.) Direct inquiries to the UAB Affirmative Action Officer, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-2010. UAB MedWise materials will be made available in an alternate format for the vision-impaired upon request.

THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA GALAA

Birmingham, Alabama June 27, 1995

Dear professional, business, or organization:

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama (GALAA) is a nonprofit organization created in 1993. Our mission is to educate and serve the gay and lesbian community in Alabama.

We would like to give you the opportunity to participate in this endeavor by sharing an exciting project that we think will be of interest to you. GALAA is proud to announce that we are creating a gay-friendly business and service directory for our community which we are calling the ***RAINBOW PAGES***. This is the first time that a directory of this type will be created in Alabama. It will contain listings from across Alabama and include information for neighboring states that many gay and lesbian Alabamians visit.

We are contacting businesses and service providers whom we feel may be interested in being listed in the ***RAINBOW PAGES*** directory. If your business or service welcomes the opportunity to serve members of the lesbian and gay community as your customers or clients, then we would welcome the opportunity to list your business in the ***RAINBOW PAGES***.

GALAA will be listing gay-friendly businesses and service providers *free of charge* as a service to both you and members of the community we represent. *Advertising space* will also be available in the directory to provide you an opportunity to deliver your own message to members of the community through your advertisement.

We feel that having your business listed in the RAINBOW PAGES will perform a double service. Your listing and advertising will increase your business dealings with the gay and lesbian community and the members of the community will have a valuable source of information on service providers with whom they can feel comfortable doing business.

We feel our advertising rates are extremely reasonable for our first issue. They are:

FULL PAGE — $165 (4.5" X 7.5")	HALF PAGE — $85 (4.5" X 3.5") or (2.0" X 7.5")	QUARTER PAGE — $50 (4.5" x 1.5") or (2.0" X 3.5")	MARKET SPACE — $35 (2.0" x 2.25")

Please take the time to consider which advertising rate is right for you. Enclosed is a verification card for you to review to make sure we have the correct information for your free listing. Make any changes necessary on the pre-posted card enclosed. You may make the changes on your label or on the return address portion of the enclosed card.

Thank you for your support! Please review the enclosed post card, mark the appropriate box, sign it, and drop it in the mail right away. If you have any questions, you may give us a call at at (205) GALAA-86 (425-2286).

Sincerely,

David White

David White, State Coordinator
GALAA
Post Office Box 36784
Birmingham, Alabama 35236-6784

Adam Plier

Adam Plier,
RAINBOW PAGES Editor

GALAA FAMILY VALUES

A publication of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama P.O. Box 36784, Birmingham, AL 35236-6784

Volume 1 Issue 3

OF YEAR AGAIN!!!

GALAA, Inc.
P.O. Box 36784
Birmingham, Alabama 35236-6784

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ENDA — Find out what it means to you and your job page 2
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205-758-9223

GALAA

GALAA FAMILY VALUES

A publication of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama P.O. Box 36784, Birmingham, AL 35236-6784

September/Fall 1995 Volume 1 Issue 3

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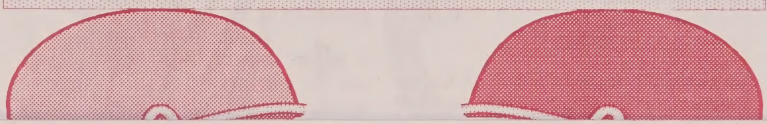

GALAA **fundraiser,** at Michael's on the Friday Night September 15

Join us in Tuscaloosa at 11:00 pm for the

WEST CENTRAL ALABAMA ENTERTAINER CONTEST 1995

$100.00 Prize to the winners of the **lip sync** and **live** judged contests and $50.00 goes to each 1st runner-up in each contest.
Come have a good time in Tuscaloosa on September 15, and support GALAA at the same time!

GALAA **meeting,** will also be held at Michael's on Saturday September 16 at 3:00 pm. If you can't make to the fundraiser please come to our monthly meeting. We will be discussing the final deadline of **The Rainbow Pages,** which is quickly approaching, and politics in our state and in the nation. There will be a report on how our first Coffeehouse went and other interesting stuff, so be there.....

MICHAEL's address is 2201 6th Street in Downtown Tuscaloosa. Take I-59 to I-359. Take the 15th Street exit and go Galee forward. Take Right onto 6th. 205-758-9223

REGISTER!!! VOTE!!!

If you know of a business or service provider who should be contacted about being listed or advertising in the RAINBOW PAGES —ACT NOW! Call David at (205) 985-5609. The more businesses we can include, the more valuable the directory will be. We want this to become an important asset to the community. Look for the RAINBOW PAGES to be distributed in early November.

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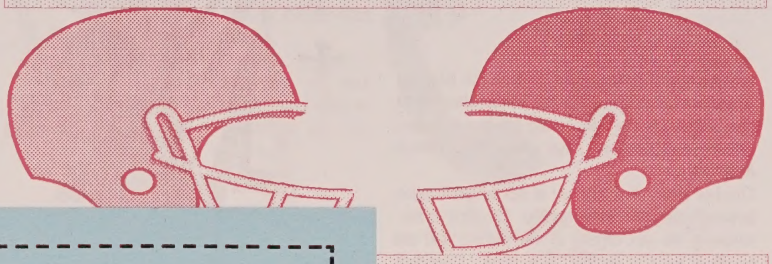

abama means, of course, football! We hope your enjoying the cooler weather and the games, be ALAA! The Fall issue of FAMILY VALUES is here to and how YOU can be a part of it!

☐ The information is correct on the label below

☐ Please change my listing as indicated

This is the information we will publish about you in the directory

[W50Z7] COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH P.O. Box 101473
5117 1st Avenue North BIHAM, AL 35210
Birmingham, AL 35210 (205) 599-3363
[CATEGORY] CHURCHES & RELIGIOUS GROUPS 35210
Rev. Marge Ragona/**Please provide ZIP code/**

☐ I would like more information about advertising in the *RAINBOW PAGES*

Please sign here: _____

☐ Please do not list me in the ***Rainbow Pages*** directory

ETTING ENTRIES INTO ION OF THE GALAA *W PAGES*

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Gay community directory for Alabama and surrounding s being put together for our community to use. The and service providers who happily accept members of mers. These people support us and want us to be fairly ce.

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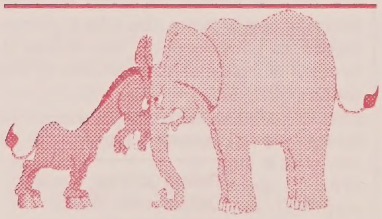

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How to reach us at GALAA and the fall meeting schedule page 3
Family Viewpoints and upcoming events page 4

FROM: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

☐ *PLEASE CHECK HERE TO INDICATE A CHANGE IN YOUR LISTING INFORMATION*

GALAA DIRECTORY
POST OFFICE BOX 36784
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
35236-6784

GALAA

GALAA FAMIλY VALUES

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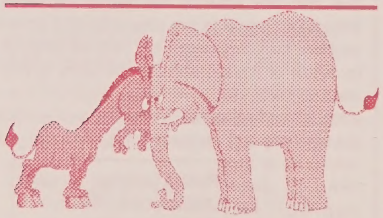
Isn't it amazing that of all those contributions, the one from a lesbian and gay organization is returned? Is this telling the millions of gay and lesbian voters in this country that our money is not good enough for Mr. Dole or is this a fore-telling of the way the senator will be if he is elected to be our president?

Dole, who is an Army veteran of World War II, is against lifting the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military. Log Cabin republicans are working to overturn the ban. When the Dole campaign was informed that the news of this donation was to be published by Deb Price, a journalist whose column about gay and lesbian issues appears in the Detroit Free press, they promptly returned the donation. Dole does not want to 'offend' the ultra-conservative voters he needs to defeat arch conservatives like Senator Phil Gramm and Pat Buchanan, who also want the Republican nomination for president.

Perhaps those who were thinking that Senator Dole was moderate on issues affecting gays and lesbians might want to reconsider! It appears that he is trying to look like a member of the Jesse Helms branch of the Republican Party.

—COMPILED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES



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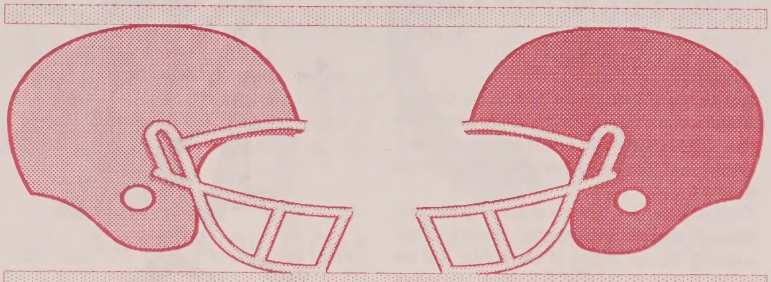

GALAA welcomes you to Fall, 1995! Fall in Alabama means, of course, football! We hope your team has a successful season. While you are enjoying the cooler weather and the games, be sure to keep up with all that is going on with GALAA! The Fall issue of FAMIλY VALUES is here to help you do just that. Find out what we're up to and how YOU can be a part of it!

LAST CALL FOR GETTING ENTRIES INTO THE 1995-96 EDITION OF THE GALAA *RAINBOW PAGES*

The closing date for getting a listing published in the 1995-96 edition of the RAINBOW PAGES is almost here! September 15th is the deadline for getting entries in. Advertising absolutely cannot be accepted after September 30.

The RAINBOW PAGES is GALAA's Lesbian and Gay community directory for Alabama and surrounding states. This is the first time such a publication is being put together for our community to use. The RAINBOW PAGES will contain listings of business and service providers who happily accept members of the lesbian and gay community as clients and customers. These people support us and want us to be fairly treated when we are venturing out into the marketplace.

Far too many businesses are willing to take our money yet would openly discriminate against us when we turn our backs. The RAINBOW PAGES will provide the community with a list of Gay-Owned, Gay-Oriented, and/or Gay-Friendly businesses. Every member of the community ought to look here first when you need something.

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The Sexual Misconduct Lawsuit Project Needs Your Help

Our membership has voted to take the State of Alabama to court to overturn the Sexual Misconduct Law. GALAA is currently asking for your monetary help for what could be a major victory for us here in Alabama.

This law states that "any act of sexual gratification between persons not married to each other, involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another" is a crime. Offenders can spend up to a year in jail and face fines for loving the person you love. Since we cannot yet get legally married in any of the 50 states, we are unfairly singled out by this law.

This law has been used as a tool for discrimination against lesbians and gays. In 1992, the Alabama Legislature passed a law to ban any university from using tax dollars to support any group that 'fosters or promotes a lifestyle or actions prohibited by the sodomy and sexual misconduct laws' of Alabama.

This suit could cost as much as $20,000 over the next three years.

GALAA members voted that the pursuit of the lawsuit can only be conducted with funds specifically donated by members of the community which have been earmarked for this project. Funds

from our general operating budget cannot be used. Here are some things you can do to help make this court battle a successful one. . .

First, send your most generous and tax-deductible donation to GALAA marked "Lawsuit Fund";

Second, talk this up with all your friends;

Third, have a "Sex is no crime" or a "Fob, get out of my bedroom" fund raising party at your house. Ask your friends to come by for a donation of $10 or $20.

Also, call us at (205) GALAA-86. We have several ways that your own special talents can be put to good use. With determination, we will leave the bullies in our dust!

—THE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT LAWSUIT COMMITTEE, DAVID WHITE, CHAIR

Members Unanimously Vote For ENDA

At the August meeting, GALAA members voted unanimously to support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, also known as ENDA. The bill (S. 2238) was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

When the bill was introduced, Kennedy stated that the bill would "prohibit the discriminatory use of an individual's sexual orientation as the basis for decisions on hiring, firing, promotion, or compensation . . . it requires basic fairness for gay men and lesbians, who deserve to be judged in their job settings — like all other Americans — by their ability to do their work."

A national poll demonstrated that 79% of Americans believe that employers should not discriminate based on sexual orientation.Nine states have passed laws protecting us from job discrimination.

This bill would update our civil rights laws in order to ensure "equal access to employment."

Write Senators Shelby and Heflin and urge them to vote for and support ENDA (S 2238). Tell them that you agree with Senator Kennedy that this act is not about special rights — it is about extending basic civil rights protections in employment. Remind them that ENDA calls for NO QUOTAS, NO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, NO BENEFITS . . . just SIMPLE JUSTICE!

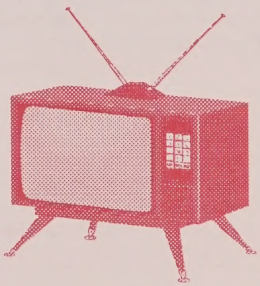
Write to your senator at:

The Honorable (their name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC
20510

Boycott Blues

The American Family Association (AFA) is a well-financed heterosexual supremacist group, self-described as a "Christian organization promoting the Biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media." For several months now, the AFA has been waging a national boycott campaign against the Unilever corporation, claiming the company promotes "TV sleaze" by advertising its products on programs like "NYPD Blue." Among other things, the AFA has condemned "NYPD Blue" for its inclusion of a gay character that is NOT portrayed with abject derision.

The August 1995 issue of the "AFA Journal" reports the the "boycott of Unilever apparently is achieving what many reasonable appeals to the company failed to produce - a re-evaluation of the programs they sponsor on TV." The AFA cites an internal memo sent by Unilever president Richard Goldstein to several of his company executives. In the memo, Goldstein states: "While we will not yield to the threat of a boycott, we have reflected on the points made by the AFA and others. There is, without question, a rising tide of sentiment that supports a reduction in the violence and explicit sexuality from many sources to which we and our children are exposed. Therefore, we will re-evaluate our



programming selection practices."

A powerful advertising force, Unilever's huge product line includes cosmetics (Calvin Klein), colognes (Liz Taylor's Passion, Obsession), toothpaste (Aim, Pepsodent, Close-Up), and soaps (Caress, Dove, Lifebouy, Lever 2000). The company also manufactures Q-tips, Breyers ice cream, Imperial margarine, Lipton tea and soups, Popsicles, Ragu Italian foods, and Vaseline brand products.

—AL KEILWASSER, GLAAD/SAN FRANCISCO

GALAA encourages you to take a stand against the AFA and their attempts the sensor the media through their hateful tactics. One of the AFA's main targets is the Gay Community. They are powerful, have lots of money, and are relentless in their attacks on us.

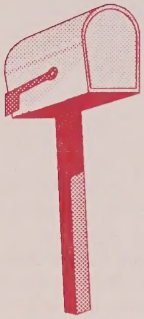
Consider purchasing Unilever products and contact the company and encourage them to resist the censorship of the AFA. Send appropriate comments to:

Richard Goldstein, President
Unilever, Unites States, Inc.
390 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Their phone numbers are: 1-212-888-1260
or 1-800-598-1223
fax: 1-212-906-4411

GALAA

GET INVOLVED WITH US AT GALAA
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



The US Postal Service will deliver your mail to us if you stick a stamp on it and send it to us at:

GALAA
P.O. BOX 36784
BIRMINGHAM, AL
35236-6784

We also have an address on the Internet (On America Onine).

Log on to your system and send us E-MAIL at our AOL address:

GALAA1@AOL.COM

We're connected to MaBell too! Our line is up 24 hours 7 days a week. You may get the answering machine, but we are confidential and will return your call as soon as we can!

Pick up your phone and call...

(205) GALAA-86
425-2286

At GALAA, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, we are working toward making our state a better place to live and work. We are trying to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation. It's a long, hard job. But we feel that if we ALL stick together we can make a difference. We consider every small gain to be a victory for our cause. We need additional resources. Each of you has some special talent or quality that makes you a valuable part of the Lesbian and Gay Community. We would like to help put that talent to good use! While we'd love to have you involved, we know that being "Out and Active" isn't for everyone. That's why we are very discrete with our members' personal information. We -NEVER- share or sell our mailing lists with ANYONE! We want you to be a part of the great things that are coming as GALAA grows. We need volunteers, we need funding, we need people who care. If you can help us with one, two, or all three of these things, then we have a place for you. GALAA is working for a better Alabama for all of us....GET INVOLVED WITH GALAA TODAY!!!!

MARK THY CALENDARS!!

Here are the dates and current locations for meetings for the rest of 1995. GALAA meetings start at 3PM and we always have some sort of social activity after the meetings. Plan to go out and eat with other members and have a good time getting to know one another.

—September 15 —— Friday
1995 Alabama Entertainer Contest
Michaels, Tuscaloosa

—September 16 —— Saturday
General meeting at Michael's, Tuscaloosa

—October 21 —— Saturday
General meeting in Huntsville, exact location to be named at a later date. Call (205) GALAA-86 for details.

—November 18 —— Saturday
General meeting in Birmingham, exact location to be named at a later date.
That night, we will have the finals of the 1995 ALABAMA ENTERTAINER contest. It will be held at CLUB 21 in Birmingham. If you need more info....call (205) GALAA-86.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you want to get a break on your *1995* taxes, you can send a tax-deductible membership contribution to GALAA now for 1996. Membership rates for 1996 are:

Seniors (over 60)	**$10.00**	**Singles**	**$20.00**
Students	**$10.00**	**Couples**	**$25.00**

Send your membership today to the address above. Please include your name, address, phone number, your partner's name and any other pertinent information! **Do it today!**

BILL STOSINE - HIS PEN IS AS SHARP AS A SWORD

There are many ways one can be "active" in helping the cause of the Gay and Lesbian Community. There are some who march, some who protest, others who campaign, others who donate...
But there are many who are believers in the old saying "The pen is mightier than the sword." One such person is GALAA member Bill Stosine.
Bill and his partner, Clark, live in Iowa City, Iowa. Though they are far away from Fob James, Jeff Sessions, and Frances Wideman, Iowans have similar problems with people just like them.
Bill religiously E-MAILS GALAA articles from newspapers all across the country relevant to issues affecting the Community on the national scale. Some of the articles we pass around at our meetings come from Bill's work.

Often, Bill writes material for Readers' Opinions / Letters to the Editor sections of newspapers responding to some half-truth, lie, or other homophobic statement someone has written to the paper. His material is very good.
More of us should take the time to respond to articles in newspapers that attack us. There are few others, unfortunately, who will come to our defense. A large number of editorials in major newspapers against gays and lesbians go unchallenged.
But fortunately, we have folks like Bill who take the time to fight back/ write back! It's a good habit to get into. The right words, written calmly and directly have a very strong effect. Why don't you get some practice today?!
Thanks, Bill, for your work...and keep those articles coming!!!

FAMIλY VIEWPOINTS

YOUR CHANCE TO EXPRESS YOURSELF TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY. THE VIEWPOINTS PUBLISHED HERE ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA. SEND YOUR VIEWPOINTS TO US AT GALAA FAMILY VALUES, POST OFFICE BOX 36784, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35236-6784. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT SUBMITTED MATERIAL.

WHEN WILL WE START TO CARE?

I have been active in politics for the last six years. I have always wanted to make the lives of gay men and lesbians better. One of the most consistent things about being gay and being in politics is not the frustrations I feel when a politician tells me "This is a moral issue" or the anger I feel when a preacher says "God says it's wrong". The worst aspect is the apathy that I feel among our own people. I feel that many lesbians and gay men feel they cannot do anything constructive to help themselves or they are fearful of the unknowns like "What will my father say?", "What will my boss say?", or "What will the neighbors think?" I know, many of you simply do not like politics.

Whether we like it or not, it is time to start caring.

It is time to start coming out.

It is time for us to take control of our own destinies. If we don't take care of our lives, believe me, there are people and groups lined up waiting to shove us all right back into the dark closet. The religious right and other hate-filled groups are on the offensive. They are using fear and lies to scare people into believing that we can do harm to their children, or that we can harm our own children just for being who we are. These groups want to deny you the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness simply because they think they must defend their narrow idea of 'family values'.

In the past we could always look for an occasional victory. Now, most of our political groups are just trying to keep their heads above water against the constant attacks coming from people who hold the Bible high, with harsh words for us, who hold a captive and believing audience.

Many of you may feel complacent. You have a good job, you just substitute the name 'Sue' when your partner's name is really 'Steve'. It bothers you a little, but you tell yourself that it's no big deal. You can go party, usually Downtown. Nobody ever gets harassed. Or, do they? You live in the 'liberal' area of town. "People are OK here, as long as you don't flaunt it," you think. While we are living our individual lives, not sticking our necks out too far, hoping for the big national groups to make a gain, we are losing ground here in conservative states like Alabama.

Right now, if someone happens to find out that you are living with someone of the same sex, just the implication that you are gay or lesbian can get you terminated from your job. You can be forced from your home or apartment because they assume you are gay or lesbian. Some cities have gone as far as rezoning certain plots of land using decency codes to deny building permits for lesbian and gay churches.

Even bars are having a harder time opening and staying open because some governments make it virtually impossible to keep up with the 'special ' codes for our bars.

The longer we wait, the closer the circle is closing in on us. It is not OK to say, GALAA will handle that, or NGLTF will answer that lie ... it is up to you too. You need to let live the person you were meant to be. Let live the person who longs to be free. There are jobs you can do that will help our cause. You can make your own life better. All you have to do is try. Volunteer. Make a difference in your own life, before somebody else does.

—DAVID WHITE, STATE COORDINATOR, GALAA

AFFIRMATION TO MEET IN REGIONS THIS FALL

Affirmation, United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual Concerns, will meet in "Regional Gatherings" this fall for the first time. Before this year, Affirmation has met twice annually for "National Gatherings." In making this decision, the National Council is providing opportunity for more of Affirmation's members and friends to be part of a Gathering.

The weekend of October 20-22 has been selected for the Southeast Region Gathering. This meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. (The Southeast Region of Affirmation corresponds to Methodism's Southeast Jurisdiction). During the weekend, activities will emphasize personal and spiritual growth, fellowship, and support as members seek to make a difference in the church. Discussion will also involve Affirmation's plans for presence at General Conference in 1996.

Registration details will be mailed to members and others interested in attending the Fall Gathering during the first half of September. To receive this mailing, please contact National Affirmation, Post Office Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204.

HONOLULU, HERE WE COME. . . *MAYBE*

Sometime during the summer of 1996, a ruling will be made in the same-sex marriage case in the state of Hawaii. Will we see jetloads of couples headed westward into the Pacific? Or will "they" find some loophole to shut the door on us once again?

Many lesbians and gays are counting on winning the right to marry on the islands and have it be legal back home in the lower 48.

But what will happen when we return to Alabama with rings on our fingers and a certificate saying that we have been legally pronounced "husband and husband" or "wife and wife"? Three states have attempted to thwart our attempts at getting hold of the right of marriage. South Dakota, Alaska, and Utah have all attempted to pass laws that would prohibit Hawaiian gay marriages from standing in their states. So far, only Utah has passed the law.

But you can bet that the fools under the dome down in Montgomery will jump right on the bandwagon if the courts in Hawaii say "Yes" to same-sex marriages. They'll also see laws passed in Jackson, Atlanta, Columbia, Nashville, Raleigh, etc. etc. trying to stop us from getting something we justly deserve.

The Constitution of the United States has an article in it which requires each of the states to recognize legal bindings from the others. Of course, the Constitution is constantly being interpreted by the courts.

Even though by my reading, the Constitution says that if we get married in Hawaii, then Utah, Alabama, New Mexico, and all the others have to recognize us. But don't count it as automatic.

I'm afraid that the Hawaii battle is only the first battle in a long war. Everything I read tells me that Hawaii is probably going to allow the marriages after the ruling next year.

But there probably will be at least 40 other legal battles that will follow...each state that passes a law will have to have that law challenged to have it taken off the books unless the Supreme Court eventually gets involved. Until we see what happens with Colorado's Amendment 2 in the Supreme Court next year, I will not rest easy about how they might treat a same-sex marriages case.

Don't get your hopes up too high and don't start saving up for a ticket to Hawaii just yet. Although we'd rather have the right to get married in Bessemer or Gardendale, we would be on the next plane to Honolulu. Let's prepare ourselves mentally for a big fight...it IS coming, whatever the results in Hawaii, we have a long, long way to go at home.

—WANDA DAVIES, BESSEMER

November 15, 1995

Hi Friends:

I'm sending this announcement to you because it is the intention of GALAA, The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, to sponsor this event to showcase the incredible wealth of talent we have in our community. The live contest is for dancers, singers, poets, comediennes etc. The lip-sync contest is for the obvious. $150.00 cash prize for each winner. Please encourage everyone you know to participate in this contest. Potential contestants can enter at Bill's Club or may call me at work 985-5609 or at home 822-8830. GALAA wants this to be a fun event that will bring our community closer. We hope to see you at Bill's Club on December 14 and/or December 15!!!

Sincerely:

David W. White, State Coordinator

P.S. Please display these signs. Thanks!

LRS96-839:2/2/96:JRC/lwm

H. 142 By Crigler, Seibenhener, Clouse, Laird, Dolbare, Thomas (D), McKee, Turner, McMillan, Vance, Jackson, Penry, Wren, Gaston, Hogan, Guin, Sims, Allen, Sanderford, Hawkins, Knight (A), Carns, Dean, Smith and Pringle

Rl 2/6/96

RFD Judiciary Patricia Aldridge 242-7606

SYNOPSIS: Currently, marriages between persons of the same sex are not specifically prohibited.

This bill would invalidate marriages between persons of the same sex.

A B I L L

T O B E E N T I T L E D

A N A C T

To amend Section 30-1-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to invalidate and declare void marriages between persons of the same sex.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 30-1-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§30-1-3.

"(a) Marriage is a personal relationship solemnized between a man and a woman arising out of a civil contract to

Play ball

The majors may be on strike but college baseball is alive and swinging **C1**

Big Easy

There's more to New Orleans than the tiny section of French Quarter **B1**

Partly cloudy, high **48**, low **32**

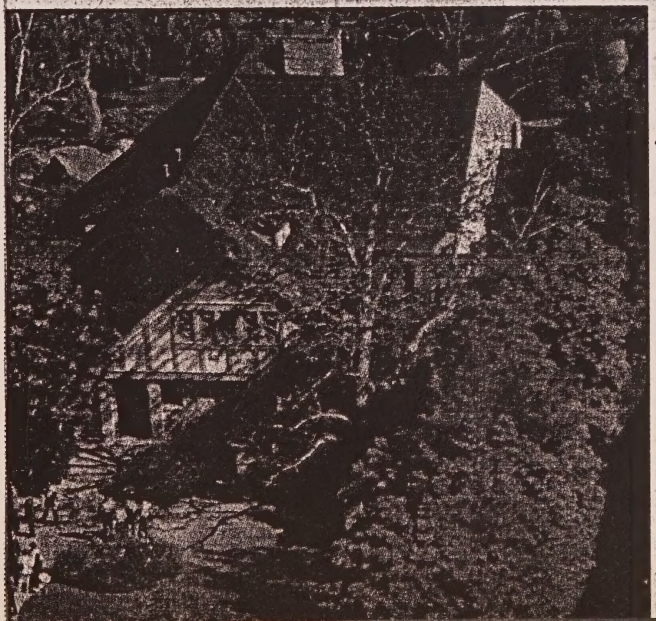
Details A2

Post-Herald

MONDAY
February 13, 1995
35 Cents

O.J. Simpson and a plain-clothes police officer stand in the yard of Simpson's estate in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles. The jury in his double-murder trial toured the grounds yesterday.

AP



Sessions works for states' rights

By Thomas Hargrove
Post-Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Alabama Attorney General Jeff Sessions is helping Colorado defend its controversial law which state judges have overturned for violating the legal rights of homosexuals.

Sessions has appointed prominent Washington attorney Robert H. Bork, an unsuccessful nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court under President Ronald Reagan, to represent Alabama in a "friend of the court" filing on Colorado's behalf.

Colorado officials have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a decision by its own state Supreme Court that declared that "Amendment Two" to the Colorado Constitution approved by voters in 1992 was too broad in its attempts to limit the rights of homosexuals.

That amendment sought to outlaw "any claim of minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination" for anyone of "homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation."

Please turn to SESSIONS, page A8

Norwood watches

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torney, Henry L. Thomp-
represented several po-

lice officers in the past, denied that Forbes shot Davis as he lay on the ground. Forbes was dazed from the fight when he shot out at Davis in self defense, Thompson said.

Thompson complained that the public involvement in this case has worked against his client.

"I think given this massive build-up ... they probably treated him differently than they would the average criminal defendant," he said.

Several members of the Norwood community said they are eager to hear Forbes' side of the story.

"We want the justice process to go on," Ms. Sykes said. "We haven't heard the full story."

And at least one Norwood resident, who asked not to be named, is skeptical of accounts of what happened.

"You can't believe what you hear," she said. "Someone could hit one of us standing here with two or three people watching and there would be two or three versions of what happened."

Rev. Cedric Stringer, who grew up with Davis in Gardendale, said he was concerned about some of the speculation surrounding the shooting that connected his friend to drugs.

"I think there needs to be a public apology for scandalizing his name and calling him a drug dealer," said Stringer, an associate minister at Galilee Baptist Church in Fairfield.

Davis, he said, was a hard-working dishwasher at the Southside Shoney's restaurant who longed for a better life. A 1992 guilty plea to possessing drug paraphernalia might have been a case of just getting in with the wrong group of people, Stringer said.

"He just believed in working hard and earning good money," he said. "He was doing everything he could to improve his life."

In his spare time, Stringer said, Davis exercised and even attended Bible study with him. Davis' family was shocked by his death, he said. "I think what hurts more than anything is how he died," Stringer said.

Stringer also said that he planned to go to as many community meetings and trial events as he could manage. "I'm pleased with the way everything's going so far, and I believe that justice will be done."

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home — It was
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sman said more than 250
rs were working in

Sessions

From page A1

A spokesman for Sessions said his decision had nothing to do with the attorney general's personal opinions on homosexuality or because any specific Alabama law might be jeopardized if the Colorado law remains unenforced.

"The attorney general just wants to make sure that Alabama's rights of referendum and amendment are not infringed upon," said Chuck Spurlock, an aide to Sessions. "We think this (Colorado court) decision set a very dangerous precedent."

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide in the next two weeks whether it will consider Colorado's appeal. Joining Alabama as friends of the court on Colorado's behalf are the attorneys general for Virginia and Idaho.

"Jeff just thought that Mr. Bork's brief was on the point and that the issues here demanded our attention," Spurlock said. "We all signed on as a sympathetic co-attorneys general to this brief."

He said Alabama tax dollars are not being used on Colorado's behalf in the case.

Bork, a former federal judge with a reputation as a brilliant and very conservative legal mind, said in his filing to the Supreme Court that the decision by Colorado judges "casts a long shadow over numerous provisions of state constitutions."

The issue began after the Colorado cities of Denver, Boulder and Aspen enacted local ordinances prohibiting discrimination based upon sexual orientation in jobs, housing and public accommodations.

A Colorado Springs-based group called Colorado for Family Values sponsored the amendment. The group's leaders said they feared that special protections for gay citizens would diminish the privacy, associational, religious and economic liberties of heterosexuals.

The Colorado Supreme Court ruled that this amendment violated a fundamental right. "Laws may not create unequal burdens on identifiable groups with respect to the right to participate in the political process, absent a compelling state interest," the state jurists wrote.

The state court based its argument upon the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees everyone due process of law.

"The potential scope of the right recognized by the Colorado Supreme Court in this case is breathtaking," Bork wrote sarcastically. "If the court means what it says, it has discovered a constitutional right of any 'independent identifiable class of persons' to have its political agenda insulated against normal democratic processes."

GET DOWN TO BUSINESS TUESDAYS IN Birmingham Post-Herald

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THE CRIMSON WHITE

Monday, February 20, 1995
Vol. 101 • No. 94

Church draws homosexual community

By Josh Bean
SENIOR STAFF REPORTER

Tuscaloosa's gay and lesbian community now has a place to worship together: the Metropolitan Community Church.

The church has been holding services in the Tuscaloosa area since November. The Tuscaloosa congregation is a parish extension of the Covenant Metropolitan Community Church in Birmingham.

John Hankins, the pastoral leader of the Tuscaloosa church, said the group is a Christian group, not a political group. Hankins is a student clergy at Covenant MCC in Birmingham and is slated to graduate from seminary in May.

"We're a church, not a political party," Hankins said.

Hankins also pointed out that Metropolitan Community Church is not exclusively for a gay and lesbian people, but rather it welcomes all who want to worship.

"We are a gay and lesbian-friendly church," Hankins said. "We are very Christian. There's nothing occult about us."

Dottie Cook, a Tuscaloosa resident and a member of the Metropolitan Community Church's Tuscaloosa Congregation, agreed that the church is very inclusive.

"MCC isn't just for gay people; it's for all people," Cook said. "It's a church for all believers."

Louis Cooper, the president of the University's chapter of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance, said the church is very important for homosexuals in the community.

"I think it's very important for gay people to have an outlet in every aspect of life," Cooper said.

Cooper said although he is not a religious person, he still attends the MCC's services.

"I go because it empowers gay people," Cooper said. "I'm not a religious person, but I go to this church because it's a support group."

"I think every community needs a place where gay people can worship. There's just something inherently supportive in being in a room with people who are just like you," Cooper said.

Lisa Spadafora, a graduate student in creative writing and a member of the church group, also said the church is very important to the community.

"I think it's very important because there aren't many places in Tuscaloosa — in Alabama in general — where people who identify as gay and lesbian Christians have a safe place to worship God," Spadafora said.

Spadafora said she came from a Catholic church where she was ostracized from by virtue of being lesbian. She said she's always had a "very spiritual relationship with God," but she was told that she "couldn't exist, both being a lesbian and have a spiritual relationship with God."

She added that many gay and lesbian Christians are pressured by the gay and lesbian community for being Christian and Christians for being gay.

•see **Church**, page 3

"It's a gift where I can bring m whole self," Spadafora said of th church.

Cook said she has attended th Covenant MCC in Birminghan and agreed that there is a great nee for a gay and lesbian-friendl church in the Tuscaloosa area.

"I felt there was a tremendou need in the community here," Coo said. "There are quite a percentag of gay people everywhere."

Hankins said the church's goal i to become it's own church and not parish extension of the Birminghar congregations. He said the grou hopes to move into its own buildin in the very near future.

"We hope to be in our ow building in six weeks," Hankin said.

Spadafora said the church hav ing its own building is very impor tant to the congregation.

"I think a building is importan for a couple of reasons. One because I think it will enable us t have a presence. People can fin out what we're about. I also thin it's important for any group of peo ple who share a common belie about God to have a building that i the church," Spadafora said.

"I really feel like having th actual building gives us a sense o ownership for the church," she said

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Crimson White is happy to publish letters by members of the University community, past and present. Letters to the editor should be no more than 500 words in length. Columns are considered separately. Columnists should contact the editorial page editor before submitting a column.

***The CW* reserves the right to edit letters for punctuation, style and length.** *The CW* also reserves the right to reject any letter. Each letter submitted must include the author's name, address and phone number. Students should include their year and major. Submissions may be taken to room 202 of the Student Publications Building, located on the corner of University Boulevard and Stadium Drive, or mailed to *The Crimson White* c/o Editorial Page Editor, P.O. Box 2389, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35403-2389. Submissions can also be faxed to (205) 348-8036. For more information, call (205) 348-6144. Submissions can be e-mailed on campus to: letters_to crimson_white@bamanet.ua.edu.

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Robertson rebuffs Gay minister

Televangelist's former speech writer arrested at CBN headquarters

by Sheila Walsh

With white roses in hand, a dozen pro-Gay religious activists daily visit the Christian Broadcast Network (CBN) in Virginia Beach, Virginia, to ask for a meeting with its founder, Pat Robertson.

But Robertson, who shares his belief that homosexuality is sinful with millions of CBN viewers, keeps refusing the offer. As he told Metropolitan Community Church official the Rev. Dr. Mel White in a Feb. 7 letter, he doesn't plan to change his views on homosexuality. The religious magnate believes those views are "framed 100 percent on the Bible."

Despite Robertson's initial refusal, White and a dozen religious activists visited CBN headquarters Feb. 14 to demand a meeting. CBN officials refused to let the group meet with Robertson that day. Since then, activists have returned every day to repeat their request.

White told CBN officials Feb. 14 he would sit in their lobby until Robertson would agree to a meeting, according to Dawn Rankin-Phelps, a spokesperson for the coalition of protesters. White waited until 5:30 p.m., until he was removed by CBN officials, according to press releases from both Rankin-Phelps and CBN. At that time, CBN officials warned White not to return because he would be considered a trespasser.

Virginia Beach Police arrested White the next day when he returned to CBN headquarters and refused to leave. According to the local sheriff's office, White was charged with trespassing. His bail is set at $1,000.

White said he began fasting Feb. 15 in hopes of "an understanding" between himself and Robertson. According to Major W.T. Mann of the Virginia Beach Correction Center, White is being held in separate quarters from the jail population because medical specialists are observing the fasting man 24 hours a day.

In a Feb. 15 letter to Robertson, White explained why he wants a meeting.

"We don't come to change your mind about the nature or theology of homosexuality," wrote White. "Our primary concern, Pat, are the hate crimes against us increasing at an alarming rate in numbers and in brutality all across the nation. You have a national news service at CBN. We thought you would be interested in the anti-gay hate crime statistics we have gathered. And because we know that you deplore violence, we wanted to demonstrate to you how, inadvertently, your false charges against us contribute to that violence as they are repeated endlessly on the 700 Club, in your fundraising letters, and in the materials of the Christian Coalition."

CBN officials dismissed White's actions as a "publicity stunt."

"His actions today only confirm what we believed from the beginning: that Mel White was only interested in attempting to create a media event to publicize himself. His actions and comments indicate White was not interested in genuine dialogue, but rather to impose an unwarranted meeting demand upon Mr. Robertson," said CBN spokesperson Gene Kapp, according to a Feb. 15 press release.

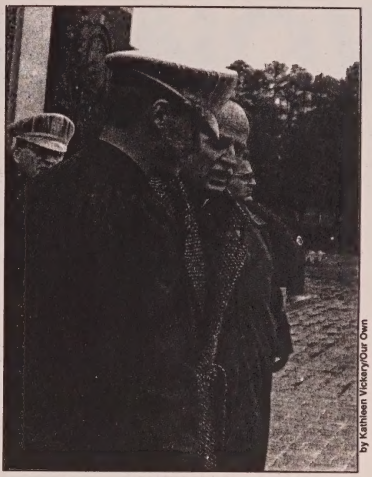
"This is not a publicity stunt," said White, according to a press release. "Innocent gay and lesbian Americans face suffering and death because of Pat's false and misleading rhetoric. We must take our stand against this toxic flow of misinformation ..."

"This is not a media event," said Rankin-Phelps. Though the activists fax press releases around the country, she said they have received very little press coverage so far.

Prospects for understanding are dim — judging from Robertson's tone in the Feb. 7 letter to White.

"There is nothing you could say and nothing you could do which would make me believe you more than I believe Moses or the apostle Paul," wrote Robertson. "For this reason, I do not wish to meet to debate the merits of homosexuality. You have chosen your lifestyle and I hope that God will reveal to you one day what His Word says about it."

"We are told in the Bible to love all people including those who sin against the Lord. For this reason I must have love in my heart towards homosexual and lesbian people, and to the best of my knowledge, we are able to minister to about 2,000 of these people every month," wrote Robertson. "On the other hand, the Bible indicates in the book of Romans that 'God gave them up.' It is the last stage in the decline of a population. In the Old Testament the statement is clear: 'It is an abomination for a man to lie with a man as with a woman.'"



by Kathleen Vickery/Our Own

Mel White is led away by police officers.

By seeking a meeting with Robertson, White says he is merely following Jesus' word. He cites a verse in the Gospel of St. Matthew: "If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault."

White, a former ghostwriter for Robertson and other religious right figures, said he first began asking Robertson for a meeting two years ago — shortly after he came out as a Gay man. Now White serves as minister of justice for the Metropolitan Community Church, a Christian demonination for Gays.

Religious activists who returned to CBN after White's arrest included the Rev. Robert C. Bradford, a retired Presbyterian minister; Michael Barber, an ordained United Church of Christ deacon who is openly Gay; Ann B. Carlson, convener of Integrity/Tidewater, (Va.), an Episcopal ministry for Gays; Vincent G. Connery, a former Roman Catholic priest who resigned in 1987 after he publicly challenged the church's position on homosexuality; Alice Taylor, a Presbyterian Church elder involved with Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns; and the Rev. Carol Wier, a pastor at New Life MCC of Hampton Roads in Norfolk, Va.

A Virginia Beach Police spokesperson said Feb. 22 there have been no additional arrests in connection with the protests.

The Rev. Darlene C. Garner, pastor of MCC of Northern Virginia, brought a delegation of 12 to CBN headquarters Feb. 17 in another attempt to get a meeting with Robertson. Garner did not return a *Blade* reporter's phone call by deadline.

The Rev. Meg Riley, head of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay concerns, said she used her clergy credentials to visit White at the Virginia jail.

"What is exciting about this is that the religious community is really gathering around the hypocrisy and gathering faith to propel us forward with courage rather than to criticize or reject somebody's point of view," she said.

The CBN action, said Riley, also calls attention to Gay-bashers who use religion to justify their actions.

Although Riley says it is unlikely the activists will change Robertson's mind, she believes the CBN action is significant because it could motivate people of faith.

"To me, the success is in getting people involved, not necessarily in reaching Pat Robertson," said Riley. "In the Holocaust, it was the silent majority that was the most damaging. If this mobilizes some of the people who are silent — whether by shaming them or exciting them, however it mobilizes people of faith — then it was a success."▼

Mid-South NOW Conference

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Celebrating 30 Years of Activism

March 22 - 24, 1996
Tuscaloosa, AL

Mid-South NOW Conference Agenda

Friday, March 22

8pm - 10pm	Registration
TBA	Candidate Hospitality

Saturday, March 23

8:30am - 3:30pm	Registration
9am - 9:45am	Plenary Session I
	Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of Conference Rules, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Election Rules, Nomination of Candidates
9:45am - 10am	Break
10am - 11 am	Workshop Session I
11am - 11:15am	Break
11:15am - 12:15pm	Workshop Session II
12:15pm - 1:30pm	Buffet Luncheon
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Workshop Session III
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Break
2:45pm - 3:15pm	Disability Rights Training
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Break
3:30pm -5pm	Plenary Session II
	Candidate speeches, Candidate question and answer session, Final credentialing report
5pm - 6pm	Voting
6pm - 8pm	Dinner on your own
8pm - until	Entertainment

Sunday, March 24

10am - 11am	Plenary Session III
	Election results, Resolutions
11am	Adjourn
11:15am	Mid-South NOW Council Meeting

Conference Details

Accessibility

The hotel is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Accommodations

The conference will held at the Sheraton Inn Capstone, 320 Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. The rooms are available for a flat rate of $75 + tax. Call (800) 477-2262 or (205) 759-3200 to make room reservations. Be sure to identify yourself as a participant in the Mid-South NOW conference.

Child Care

Child care will be available on Saturday from 8:30am - 6pm. Child care is available by advance request only. The deadline for child care requests is March 8.

Elections

Elections will be held for three Mid-South representatives to the National NOW Board, including the Regional Director. Candidates may be nominated from the floor at the Saturday morning plenary. Voting will be Saturday from 5 - 6pm. Members in good standing for at least ninety days prior to the conference will be eligible to vote.

Workshops

Topics for workshops include: major donor training, campus organizing, reclaiming the language, welfare reform, fighting the religious right, and disability rights.

- - - -

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Montgomery ADV. 14MAR96

Abortion bills vote postponed

by Sandee Richardson
ADVERTISER STAFF WRITER

The governor's six-bill abortion package stalled in the Senate Judiciary committee after the committee failed to muster a quorum for a vote.

Only six of the 14 members of the committee attended the Wednesday morning meeting. That was two short of the number needed for a vote.

Choosing not to attend were Sens. Sundra Escott-Russell, D-Birmingham, Michael Figures, D-Mobile, Charles Langford, D-Montgomery, Pat Lindsey, D-Butler, Hank Sanders, D-Selma, Rodger Smitherman, D-Birmingham, and Charles Steele, D-Tuscaloosa. Sen. Charles Davidson, R-Jasper, did not attend because of a death in the family.

The abortion bills, which have been dubbed the "Women's Health Protection" bills, would place tighter restrictions on abortion, including a 48-hour waiting period and a $500,000 minimum liability insurance requirement for all abortion clinics.

"We've been concerned all along about the pro-life support in this committee. But I don't think this committee accurately represents the sentiments of the whole Senate," said Sen. Albert Lipscomb, R-Magnolia Springs, sponsor of one of the abortion bills.

Birmingham abortion clinic director Diane Derzis said she and her constituents plan to attend every public meeting concerning the abortion bills.

"This happens year after year, and every year that it comes up, we'll be down here fighting," Ms. Derzis said.

Chairman Roger Bedford, D-Russellville, said the abortion package will be first on the agenda at next Wednesday's meeting.

With no vote possible on the abortion package, Sen. William Armistead, R-Columbiana, began the public hearing by asking for the committee's support for the five bills he is sponsoring.

Four of Sen. Armistead's bills, called the "Children's Protection Package" are designed to crack down on perpetrators of child abuse, he said.

The package includes bills that would require background checks for all public school officials, and a community notification bill that would require all convicted sex offenders to register with the Department of Corrections.

The notification bill also would require local law enforcement officials to notify persons living within a certain distance of released sex offenders.

Emotional testimony from victims of child sexual abuse and their families brought many people in the crowd to tears.

Gail Hopkins, a Birmingham mother of two, brought her oldest son Nathan, 7, to the microphone to tell her family's story.

Both her sons were molested by a next-door neighbor who was a convicted sex offender.

"If I had known who was living next door, maybe I could have protected my children," Mrs. Hopkins said. "The state is failing its children. These bills give the state a chance to right what is wrong."

Marlene Meadows, and her son Bryan, 17, gave emotionally wrenching testimony about the abuse Bryan suffered at the hands of a teacher at Oakgrove High School in Adger.

With a trembling voice and a steady stream of tears, Mrs. Meadows recounted the horror she felt when she discovered her son had been sexually assaulted repeatedly during a three-year period.

"I taught my children to mind adults and to have those words come back and haunt you is something no parent should have to suffer," Mrs. Meadows said.

Sen. Bedford said the Children's Protection bills also are scheduled for a vote at next week's meeting.

ANDY HAILS/STAFF

During a discussion of 'Children's Protection Package' bills, Gail Hopkins, holding her son Nathan, tells legislators Wednesday how her children were molested by a next-door neighbor. Mrs. Hopkins said perhaps she could have protected her children if she had known of the man's criminal record.

The last bill that Sen. Armistead introduced proved to be the most controversial.

It would prohibit marriage licenses being issued to same-sex couples and would impose a $1,000 fine to any official who conducted these ceremonies.

It also would prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages in other states.

Opponents of this bill alternated with supporters of the Children's Protection bills for speaking time at the hearing.

Scott McGee, media coordinator for the Alabama Gay and Lesbian Alliance, likened the Senate bill to the anti-civil rights legislation of the 1960s.

Legislation aims to cut

14 MAR 96

Montgomery Advertiser

Sex-change woman: Ban won't stop love

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cab driver who had a sex change operation to become a woman urged legislators Wednesday not to ban same-sex marriages because she wants to marry her girlfriend.

But Cristina D. Harrison of Huntsville said no matter what the Legislature does, it won't end her relationship with Kathy Zentner. "You are going to have a hard time outlawing my love," Ms. Harrison told lawmakers.

The Senate Judiciary Committee held a public hearing Wednesday on Sen. Bill Armistead's bill to ban same-sex marriages, as well as his legislative package to crack down on child sex abuse. The hearing was an emotional seesaw, with testimony against Sen. Armistead's same-sex marriage bill alternating with tearful testimony from sex abuse victims supporting his other bills. The committee plans to vote on the bills March 20.

Sen. Armistead, R-Columbiana, said his legislation would:

- Ban same-sex marriages in Alabama.
- Refuse to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.
- Fine ministers $1,000 for performing same-sex marriages.

Legislatures in Alabama and some two dozen other states are considering bans on same-sex marriages because of a 1993 ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court that said it was unconstitutional discrimination on the basis of gender to ban same-sex marriages unless the state has a compelling reason to do it.

Ms. Harrison said she and Ms. Zentner recently obtained a marriage license in Huntsville, but now local officials refuse to recognize it because they thought Ms. Harrison was a man. "It's because I have a deep voice," said the hefty Ms. Harrison, who wore blue jeans, a black T-shirt, suspenders and a pony tail.

Ms. Harrison said the couple plan a wedding ceremony, but haven't set a date.

Ms. Harrison and other opponents of Sen. Armistead's bill said they will challenge it in court if it becomes law.

Scott McGee of Birmingham, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, compared the bill to a law Alabama once had that banned interracial marriages and that refused to recognize interracial marriages in other states.

"Basic freedoms do not expire when people cross state lines," he said.

Sen. Albert Lipscomb, R-Magnolia Springs, said the bill is an attempt to uphold what has been considered marriage for generations — a union of a man and a woman.

Louise A. Bennett, minister of the Humanist Society of Friends in Huntsville, and Helene Loper, minister of Cornerstone Metropolitan Community Church in Mobile, said their churches recognize the union of same-sex couples.

Banning the ceremonies "is a violation of their religious freedom," Ms. Bennett said.

"It's not a religious issue whatsoever," Sen. Armistead said. "The radical element of the homosexual community wants to destroy the family as we know it today."

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S. 396
By Senators Armistead, Bailey, Hill, Mitchem, Barron, Adams, Waggoner, Butler, Dial, Hale, Windom, Smith, Myers, Escott-Russell, and Denton
RFD - Judiciary
Rd 1 - 2-21-96

Roger Bedford Chm Atty: Georgia
11 50 Union Suite 732
36130 242-8819

SYNOPSIS: Currently, marriages between persons of the same sex are not specifically prohibited.

This bill would prohibit marriages between persons of the same sex in Alabama, and prohibit the legal recognition of same sex marriages formed outside of the State of Alabama.

This bill would add same sex marriages to the list for which officials who solemnize prohibited marriages are penalized.

A B I L L

T O B E E N T I T L E D

A N A C T

To amend Section 30-1-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit marriages between persons of the same sex in Alabama, to prohibit the legal recognition of same sex marriages formed outside of the State of Alabama, and to add same sex marriages

to the list for which officials who solemnize prohibited marriages are penalized.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 30-1-6, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§30-1-6.

"(a) Marriage is a sacred covenant, solemnized between a man and a woman, which, when the legal capacity and consent of both parties is present, establishes their relationship as husband and wife, and which is recognized by the state as a civil contract.

"(b) No marriage license shall be issued in the State of Alabama to parties of the same sex.

"(c) The State of Alabama shall not recognize as valid any marriage license issued by any other jurisdiction to parties of the same sex.

"(d) Any person solemnizing the rites of matrimony with the knowledge that either party is under the age of legal consent, or within the degrees prohibited by law, or that the parties are prohibited from marriage under subsection (b) of this section, must, on conviction, be fined not less than $1,000.00."

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

"Oklahoma" - Leeds HS
April 18, 19, 20.

Jud. Comm.

Roger Bedford - 732
John Amaro - 733
Chas. Davidson - 733
Sandra Escott-Russell - 731
Michael Figures - 726
Chas. Langford - 734
Pat Lindsey - 721
Albert Lipscomb - 738
Ted Little - 729
Hank Sanders - 730
Roger Smitherman - 731
Chas Steele - 735
Steve Windom - 732

NGTLF - Nat'l Conf -
Nov 1996.

Quilt in Wash DC
10/11-13 - Volunteers call
Jack Kizzia, Laso.

"The Night That Harry Kramer Kissed me."
April 1-2 Ferguson Ct.
John Butterfield

4th Sat in June
Pride in H'ville
GALOP

Houston PFLAG BUS - ENDA 13:11 - Wash DC
Opelika lunch - 3/17.
Love Makes A Family - 1 week - photo exh.
Daniel Helminiak - W. GA - speaking @ Auburn
Thurs 7pm. Braun Hall - April 18th.

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inside cover 200 → 250
center page 200 → 300
back page $500 full color ad.

TLC 5/4/96 - Fund Raiser - Holly Springs - no men
Now -

GALAA

Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, Inc

House Bill 142 and Senate Bill 396 have been introduced in the Alabama Legislature that would "prohibit marriages between persons of the same sex in Alabama, and prohibit the legal recognition of same sex marriages formed outside the State of Alabama."

GALAA is involved in a letter writing campaign to encourage all Alabama House and Senate members to vote **against** these extremely discriminatory and un-constitutional bills.

Here is what you can do:

1] Write a letter to your Senator or Representative. If you do not know who they are write your letter to Governor Fob James. The address is **Alabama State House, 11 South Union Street, Montgomery 36130.** In your letter tell a brief personal story about how you have always dreamed of marrying, how marriage brings families together or how you hope one day you will be able to marry the one you love. Say that these bills discriminate and take away your right to decide if you will accept the responsibilities of marriage. This is about basic human rights --- the right to love, cherish and support. This is about freedom.

Send your responses to GALAA for your chance at winning prizes from businesses from all over Alabama.

2] Call the State House and speak directly to the office of your Senator or Representative or the Governor. **Call 334-242-8000.**

3] Give this flyer to your friends and encourage them to do something. You do not have to be 'out' to let your views be known. Tell your Senator or Representative that you are against this bill because you believe that all people should be treated equally by the law.

These bills will be voted on soon so **please act now.**

POB 36784, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35236/205-GALAA86

MEETING APRIL 20 - CMCC 2 PM.
GALAA GALA - MAY 4 Sat 7PM - B'ham

Home is where the heart is
No matter how the heart lives!

Pentagon violating sex policy

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Two years after the Clinton adminstration enacted a policy of "don't ask, don't tell" for homosexuals in the military, Pentagon documents and interviews with service members show that the military is not only continuing to ask some troops about their sexual orientation, but is also asking their parents, their friends and therapists.

The documents suggest that the administration's effort to help homosexuals in the military may instead be harming many of them — leading to formal, wide-ranging investigations in cases that might have been handled in the past with little fanfare and without punishment.

That change may help explain why the number of service members discharged for homosexuality jumped last year in the Army, Navy and Marines. Pentagon figures show that in the fiscal year that ended Oct. 1, the three services discharged 488 service members for homosexuality, a 17 percent increase over the previous year. The Air Force said it did not have figures on dismissals of homosexuals.

The documents were obtained by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a Washington group that assists members of the military accused of homosexuality. Among them was a November 1994 Air Force memorandum that outlined the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and listed the people who should be questioned in an investigation to determine whether a service member was homosexual. Parents, brothers and sisters, school counselors, roommates and close friends, are included.

Above all, the documents and interviews with service members and their families suggest that there is widespread confusion in the military over how to implement the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The Defense Network examines the documents in a report to be made public today.

The Defense Department disputed the conclusions of the report and defended the 2-year-old policy.

Kenneth Bacon, the department's chief spokesman, said that the family members and friends of service members normally would be contacted by military investigators only in limited circumstances, such as when the service members had declared their homosexuality or when evidence suggested a member was falsely claiming to be a homosexual to leave military service.

Marriage nobody's business but yours

KIHEI, Hawaii — Why should you or the government care if the two men next door want to get married?

You shouldn't, and neither should the government.

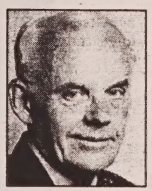
Why should you or the government care if the man and woman across the street want to get divorced?

You shouldn't, and neither should the government.

Yet folks and politicians are getting all lathered up and trying to stop some people from getting married while stopping others from getting divorced.

It makes no sense. If they believed in equal rights and the pursuit of happiness, they'd be arguing the other way.

Since the 1960s, some clergy have been "marrying" same-sex couples. No state recognizes these unions, though, so the partners get none of the benefits that marriage traditionally bestows: societal acceptance, inheritance rights, the right not to testify against each other, and, often, the right to sign up on a spouse's employee-benefits program.



Counterpoints
By Michael Gartner

In 1991, three same-sex couples — a pair of men and two lesbian couples — said the equal-rights amendment in Hawaii gave them the right to marry, and the state Supreme Court agreed. It said the state had to show a "compelling state interest" to bar such marriages.

The state was given a chance to try to show that interest, and another court date has been set for the week of July 15 in Honolulu. Unless the legislature intervenes — and both houses of the Hawaii legislature were maneuvering last week — the court is likely to rule that gay marriages are indeed valid here.

That has people all worked up. In Iowa, where I live, the Legislature apparently fears every gay in the state will rush to Hawaii to get married. The Iowa House has passed a bill that would bar the state from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states. People elsewhere are upset, too.

Why? If it's family values you want, gay marriage delivers. It encourages stable relationships, two-parent households and long-term commitment. Gay activists say it also would do everything from lowering the risk of AIDS to easing alcohol problems to eliminating the social pressure on closet gays to marry heterosexuals, which they say would lower divorce rates.

Most of all, it would provide self-esteem to people who feel discriminated against. It also would be the fair thing to do.

The arguments against gay marriage today are the same arguments put forth against interracial marriage a generation ago and interfaith marriage two generations ago. They're couched in the language of morality and tradition and family values, but they boil down to discrimination.

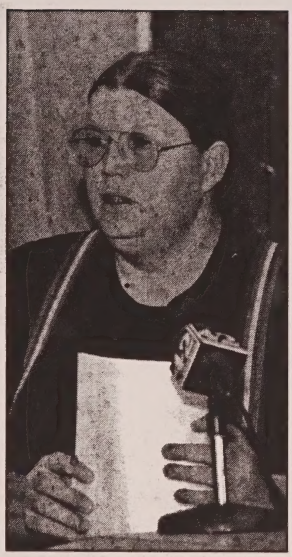
It is many of these same people, ironically, who are pressing states to make it tougher for heterosexuals to divorce. They want to eliminate no-fault divorce unless both parties are agreeable. They would force people to prove adultery or desertion or abuse before they could divorce. What nonsense.

First of all, divorce is not a growing problem. The divorce rate has been falling for 20 years, the average duration of marriage has been rising, and the number of children affected by divorce has been declining.

Second, none of that makes any difference. The state's interest should be in protecting children and ensuring equality in dividing assets. It shouldn't be trying to keep unhappy people together or forcing them to cheat and lie in order to divorce.

People who want to divorce should be free to divorce. Any time they want. And people who want to marry should be free to marry. Anyone they want.

Emotional seesaw tugs hearing on sex bills



Cristina D. Harrison
Hasn't set a date

MONTGOMERY (AP) — A Huntsville cab driver who had a sex change operation to become a woman said a proposed ban on same-sex marriages won't stop her from wanting to wed her girlfriend.

"Relationships between individuals are in the heart however the state and church look at them. You are going to have a hard time outlawing my love," Cristina D. Harrison told legislators.

The Senate Judiciary Committee held a public hearing Wednesday on Sen. Bill Armistead's bill to ban same-sex marriages, as well as his legislative package to crack down on child sex abuse. The hearing was an emotional seesaw, with testimony against Armistead's same-sex marriage bill alternating with tearful testimony from sex abuse victims supporting his other bills. The committee plans to vote on the bills March 20.

Armistead, R-Columbiana, said his legislation would:

- Ban same-sex marriages in Alabama.
- Refuse to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.
- Fine ministers $1,000 for performing same-sex marriages.

Legislatures in Alabama and some two dozen other states are considering bans on same-sex marriages because of a 1993 ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court that said it was unconstitutional discrimination on the basis of gender to ban same-sex marriages unless the state has a compelling reason to do it.

Harrison said she and Zentner recently obtained a marriage license in Huntsville, but now local officials refuse to recognize it because they thought Harrison was a man. "It's because I have a deep voice," said the hefty Harrison, who wore blue jeans, a black T-shirt, suspenders and a pony tail.

Harrison said the couple plans a wedding ceremony, but hasn't set a date. She said they are treating their relationship like any other, including going to their local paper to run an engagement announcement.

"I want the whole world to know I love this woman," Harrison said.

Harrison and other opponents of Armistead's bill said they will challenge it in court if it becomes law.

Scott McGee of Birmingham, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, compared the bill to a law Alabama once had that banned interracial marriages and that refused to recognize interracial marriages in other states.

People should marry the person they love

The last time I checked, love was *not* a perversion, as state Sen. Bill Armistead seems to believe. Perhaps if he actually knew some gay people, he could come to understand this.

It's unfortunate that, given all the real political problems in this country, any time should be wasted on preventing anyone from marrying the person he or she loves.

No less than straight people, gay people form loving, committed relationships, often involving parenthood.

Even if they fail to understand that gay people also love, I wonder if those who oppose our right to marry stop to think how this denial might affect children's lives.

For example, if one partner dies, his or her survivor may have no say whatsoever as to how the children will then be raised.

They could easily be taken from him or her and placed in a foster home, even if the children are taken literally kicking and screaming, as happened in one particularly famous Massachusetts case in the mid-80s.

Jeff Nickel,
President,
The Forum on the Right to Marriage,
Boston, Mass.

Lesbian's talk may lead to lawsuit

Mar 13, 96

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — When a high school teacher told her social studies class she was a lesbian, one student was so upset she was forced to transfer to a private school, the teen-ager's parents claim.

Jeannine and Thomas Jenei are seeking $359,571 from the town of Brookline — including $300,000 for emotional distress — saying their daughter Johanna was denied her right to a public education.

"Johanna is a young woman who believes in God and believes in Jesus Christ as her savior," said the Jeneis' lawyer, Randal Fritz. "She was just completely overwhelmed by people bringing their sexual ... and political agendas into the school."

Town officials say there is no merit to the family's claim for damages, made in a so-called demand letter that often is a preliminary to a lawsuit.

Fritz said teacher Polly Atwood announced her sexual orientation at Brookline High three years ago after being interviewed on television about a state bill to protect the rights of gay students.

Johanna, a 14-year-old freshman at the time, is now enrolled at Lexington Christian Academy. Her parents are both public school teachers in Cambridge.

The Jeneis claim school officials refused their request to set up an independent study course for their daughter with another teacher and threatened to withhold credit if Johanna did not remain in Atwood's class.

"The school should do what its own policy books say it should — respect students' differences, including differences of faith," Fritz said.

Schools Superintendent James Walsh said the school offered a number of alternatives, including another teacher or another social studies course.

Atwood could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday; she was in class.

Gay GOPers give Everett 'hostile' rating

MOBILE (AP) — A gay and lesbian Republican group gave GOP congressmen from Alabama and Mississippi low marks for their support of gay issues.

The Log Cabin Republicans graded most of the two state's GOP delegations as being "non-supportive," and it said two — Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi and Rep. Terry Everett of Alabama — were graded as "hostile."

None of the Republican lawmakers in the two states were graded "supportive" but none were given the lowest rating, "antagonistic," either.

The group's survey in Washington, D.C., was reported Tuesday by the *Mobile Register*.

Among the two delegations, Everett of Enterprise ranked lowest in his support for homosexual issues, getting 18 of a possible 100 points. Lott, of Pascagoula, got 23 of 100. But the rating scales for House and Senate were different, because the Senate had fewer votes on homosexual issues.

Other scores: Reps. Spencer Bachus of Vestavia Hills, 20, and Sonny Callahan of Mobile, 20, and Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, 30.

What we fear

Lesbian mom can't be worse than racist, deadbeat, convicted killer dad

You can tell a lot about a person by what he fears. Fear is like a picture in negative, an image inferred. Thus one can discern vanity by its fear of homeliness, modesty by its fear of exposure, stupidity by its fear of intelligence.

Knowing that, consider the child custody battle last August between John and Mary Ward. Dad is a convicted killer, an accused child molester, a fount of racist rhetoric and a deadbeat $1,400 behind in his child-support payments.

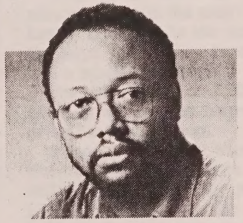
Mom is a lesbian.

What is worst?

Guess which one a judge in Pensacola, Fla., feared? Yup. Mom. Which is why dad wound up with custody of their 11-year-old daughter.

This, even though mom raised the little girl for 11 years. Even though she was by all accounts an attentive, involved and caring parent. It didn't matter. In Judge Joseph Q. Tarbuck's court, her homosexuality was the sole salient fact.

"I'm opposed to it and that's my beliefs," said John Ward righteously. I am reminded that if ignorance is the wellspring of fear, righteousness is its favored refuge.



Leonard Pitts

Reading the story last week I couldn't escape the sinking sensation that I had somehow awakened in the 1950s, the scaredy-cat years when we feared all the wrong things for all the wrong reasons. And I was reminded again that you can know a person by his fears.

Does he fear with real reason? Or does he fear without rationale — fear based on half-truth and superstition, as cave dwellers once feared flame?

Does he fear, in other words, like Ward and Tarbuck?

Consider the options the judge faced. Because Ward has threatened to disown his daughter if she ever comes home with a black guy, he might have feared the little girl would end up looking at life from beneath a pointy white hood. Because seven years ago a teenage girl accused Ward of molestation (charges were never filed and he denies the allegation), Tarbuck might have feared that the daughter would receive unwelcome midnight visits to her room. Because Ward spent eight years in prison for the second-degree murder of his first wife, Tarbuck might have feared that the child would learn to express her anger in violence. Or worse, become the target of such expression.

Instead, Tarbuck feared the mother. Feared that if left unprotected, the little girl would grow up to like women.

Truly, the mind boggles. Faced with a ruling this arrogant, retrogressive, wrongheaded, atavistic and brain-dead, one hardly knows where to begin tearing it apart.

In the first place, Your Honor, homosexuality is not catching. In the second place, even if it were, given the chance that a girl might be influenced to grow up a killer on the one hand or a lesbian on the other, I have difficulty seeing "killer" as the preferable option. And in the third place, as far as I know, lesbians have not blown up any buildings, shut down the federal government or made media heroes of any radio talk-show crackpots. As far as I know, those crimes were all committed by heterosexual men.

One wonders where these boys get the gall. Ward opines piously that his wife's sexual orientation is wrong and you say to yourself, "Yeah, right. As opposed to the brilliant life choices *you've* made, eh, sport?"

Sorry. There goes the mind, boggling again.

Closed minds

But it's troubling to me what all this says about these men and others like them. That their minds are closet-small and fortress-closed. That you cannot reach them with logic, facts or truth. There is no light in the closet. There is no key to the fortress.

"I'm opposed to it and that's my beliefs," he says.

Fine. Here's mine. Two men in Pensacola fear a good mother who wants for her child only that she "grow up to be the very best that she can be, whatever's right for her . . . I want her to be able to develop her own ideas."

They fear her. And you can tell a lot about a person by what he fears.

Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the Miami Herald.

"I remember him saying, 'I want to write this book to help others.' And I said, 'Give me a break!' " — Marlene Shyer

Coming out, coming together

A gay man and his mother collaborate on a book about his life

The Final Word
By Craig Wilson
Behind-the-scenes interviews, observations and closing thoughts

WASHINGTON — Christopher and Marlene Shyer do some of their best thinking at lunch. It was there, two years ago, that they decided to write a book together — a project fraught with problems for any mother and son.

What they didn't know at the time was how painful the process was actually going to be.

"I had no idea it was that bad for him," she says.

She's not talking about her son's writing abilities. She's talking about his childhood. Chris grew up gay in a straight, suburban world.

"I had just finished reading Paul Monette's *Becoming a Man*, and I thought that I'd like to tell my story, too, to maybe help someone else," he says.

"But I thought it would be more interesting to tell the story from two vantage points. . . . I thought a mother's perspective could help."

Enter Mom, a former suburban housewife and now novelist and children's book author in New York City. "I remember him saying, 'I want to write this book to help others,' " she says. "And I said, 'Give me a break!' "

She also added, as only a mother can, "It'll never work."

Then they went to work.

The book is *Not Like Other Boys* (Houghton Mifflin, $21.95). One chapter is written by Chris. The next by his mother. And so on. The technique gives the reader a double-barrel view of life in the Shyer household in Larchmont, N.Y. To the outside world it looked like a happy nuclear family. Father. Mother. Three children. It was not.

"It was very painful to me to hear things that had gone on that were finally revealed," says Marlene. "Heart-wrenching things."

"We jogged each other's memories," adds Chris, now 34.

"Chris would talk his chapters into a tape recorder," she says, "and I'd fluff it up."

"I'm not sure you want to say *fluff it up*," he says.

"Whatever," she responds.

Then they laugh.

Marlene admits she's still learning the lingo, still becoming politically correct, as she says, to the nuances of gay life. The book has opened a whole new world to her, far from the pools and country clubs of Westchester County.

Out on a publicity tour, she signs books in gay bookstores and attends gay churches. Most recently she was introduced to applause at Dallas' Cathedral of Hope, the largest gay congregation in America.

"I've never been to a place where the line to the men's room is longer than it is to the women's," she says. "Chris has brought me into a whole new world."

The liberation of writing the book, however, has come with a price for both of them.

Although Chris has been out of the closet for a few years now, he still has to deal with the people in his life who appear in the book.

He works in his father's eyewear business, and at least one of the 75 employees is right there on page 255. The man who called him a fag.

"There will be some trouble, no doubt," Chris says with resignation.

As for his father's reaction to the mother-son collaboration, Chris knows what it will be. "Dad will get angry at first, and then he'll get over it," says Chris. "But he hated the whole idea. He thinks this is all very personal, very private business. He'll say he's just protecting my career. He still believes that."

(The Shyers are now divorced.)

Others will not be that pleased, either. Names of the characters in the book have been changed, but certain Shyer family friends will have no trouble identifying themselves. Members of one Larchmont family were Chris' closest friends, his second family, until they found out Chris was gay and dropped him cold. "It was very painful to me," he says. "But I hope they can learn from it. That I'm the same Chris they always knew."

Chris' mother hopes a lot of people can learn from the experiences they've written about. She says she has. Although the two say they always had a good relationship, "there was always a certain tension, which came from my trying to turn him into Arnold Schwarzenegger," she admits.

"I'd accept him," she says, talking of how she'd do things differently today. "I wouldn't try to change the character of a child. There was a time I wouldn't let him into the kitchen. If he wants to cook, let him cook."

She says she'd also tread more lightly. "It's amazing the things I said, just off the cuff, that he still remembers. Hurtful things. I'm still surprised how the small, innocuous comments I made years ago he's carried with him all his life."

What Marlene likes more than anything now are stories about families who handle the news of a gay member with aplomb.

"My favorite coming-out story is when this son tells his mother that he's gay and the mother, without missing a beat, says, 'Great. Let's go shopping!' Don't you just love it?"

The Final Word appears weekly in this space.

By H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

Reading between the lines: Christopher Shyer and his mother, Marlene, wrote 'Not Like Other Boys,' the story of Christopher's growing up and coming out as a gay man.

FROM PAGE 1A

New mayor of South Miami says competence, not sexual orientation, earned him post

ceived a boost when two U.S. representatives from Massachusetts, Barney Frank and Gerry Studds, announced they were gay.

Frank ran into problems in 1990 when the House reprimanded him for using his influence to help a male prostitute. Studds plans to retire this year, as does the only other openly gay member of Congress, Wisconsin Republican Steve Gunderson.

In Florida, openly gay Richard Heyman was elected as mayor of Key West in 1983. He served on and off until 1987. Heyman was a reluctant symbol, though, preferring to point to his achievements in backing a sewage treatment plant and city charter. He died of AIDS in 1994.

Last year, for the first time, a group of about 50 openly gay and lesbian officials made history when they visited the White House. That visit became controversial when Secret Service officials, fearful of AIDS, donned rubber gloves to conduct routine security searches of the group.

President Clinton later sent personal apologies to delegation members, at least one of whom was from Broward County. That member, a city commissioner, didn't want to be identified. Up for election soon, he said he felt his opponent would use his sexuality against him.

"It's not easy for an openly gay candidate," said Kathleen DeBold, deputy director of the Victory Fund, which has raised $1.2 million for gay candidates since 1991. "He or she has to run two races, one against his or her opponent and the other against a stereotype. Tom Cunningham's election in South Miami shows voters aren't buying the rhetoric anymore."

Cunningham, a 51-year-old flower shop owner, is a modest man who wears tailored suits and a tiny earring in his left ear. He sports a red ribbon on his lapel to symbolize the fight against AIDS.

The youngest of eight children, Cunningham was born in an Alabama town of 800. He married just before heading off to serve with combat troops in Vietnam in 1970, but began dating men after the marriage ended. He won a competition as Mr. Gay Alabama in 1978.

Several years later, Cunningham moved to Dade. After a lover died of AIDS, Cunningham became chairman of the board of Cure Aids Now, one of the region's largest groups to help AIDS victims.

Two years ago, Cunningham ran for a seat on the South Miami City Commission. The small city, which neighbors Coral Gables, elected him with 61 percent of the vote.

"He openly stated that he's gay, but I just think it's his business," said Frank Miller, a 74-year-old Republican real estate broker. "I wouldn't want someone who flaunted it, but if the man is intelligent and a good administrator, so be it."

In the years that followed, Cunningham helped downtown South Miami to boom. And, after a girl was raped, he helped form a safety patrol. He hasn't pushed for an ordinance, similar to those in Palm Beach County, Broward and Miami Beach, which guarantees equal rights to gays.

Cunningham's recent campaign included little information on his sexual orientation, although he says most people in town know it. The closest he came to publicizing his status was a mailing that included information on his position with Cure Aids Now, he says.

"We don't spend any taxpayers' money on gay causes, and we don't help fund AIDS work," Cunningham said. "People elected me to do the best job possible for everyone."

Other gay officials praised Cunningham for his openness and the deft way he has dealt with the issue.

Chris Wilson, a 36-year-old commissioner in Oakland Park, has served since 1993. Like Cunningham, Wilson said being gay is rarely relevant to his work as a commissioner.

One time, Wilson said, he tried to help a license applicant who said he had encountered homophobia at City Hall. Wilson said his homosexuality, and the unfair treatment he has received because of it, helps him understand the underdog.

"I have been called names on the street, so for any issue that comes up, I try to be sure it is fair to all segments of the population," Wilson said.

Wilson said he is honest about his sexual orientation, but he doesn't advertise it.

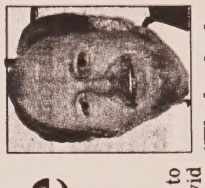
"You don't have to put a flag out in front of your house," he said. "There is no need to give the religious right any ammunition. The real question is who is the best person for the job."

To Caton, the conservative activist, the question of openness is key. Gay public officials are likely to give more time and attention to gay-related issues, he said.

"Being gay becomes an issue when you want to influence others," he said. "Naturally, they will give more time to defending their interests."

Victoria Sigler, a Dade County judge who is a lesbian and swore in Cunningham this week, denied that gay or lesbian officials necessarily try to influence others. But she agreed with Caton that going public is not a bad idea.

"If you have secrets when you step into the public arena, you are susceptible to pressure," said Sigler, who was elected last year. "I'd rather be honest."



"Their strategy of gay-bashing backfired. People here look at what people can do, not who they sleep with."

— Tom Cunningham, mayor of South Mia

Win spotlights gays in elected office

New mayor's public statement of homosexuality a political trend

By CHARLES STROUSE
Miami Bureau Chief

SOUTH MIAMI — Anonymous whispers sizzled through the city.

"Tom Cunningham is a pedophile."

"He's turning tricks at City Hall."

Then, the truth: "The candidate's gay."

In this upscale, tree-lined town of 10,000, Cunningham was elected last week as Florida's only openly homosexual mayor. He is one of just seven nationwide, according to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington, D.C.

"Their strategy of gay-bashing backfired," said Cunningham, a Vietnam veteran and former Mr. Gay Alabama. "People here look at what people can do, not who they sleep with."

Cunningham's election, with 57 percent of the vote, returned the national gay rights spotlight to South Florida. It first focused here in 1977 when singer Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" crusade torpedoed an anti-discrimination ordinance.

Activists, who have seen the nation's number of openly gay elected officials double in the last five years — from 50 to 105 — hailed the victory as a sign of growing tolerance.

But some conservatives questioned whether Cunningham really told voters enough about his sexual orientation. And they asked whether having a gay

wrong message to youngsters.

"Do we need to encourage people to have same-sex relations?" asked David Caton, leader of a Tampa group that has fought to restrict gay rights across the state. "What people do in the privacy of their own bedroom is their business, but being this public doesn't make sense morally."

Cunningham's election is part of a growing national trend of gay politicians going public with their sexual orientation. Since two openly lesbian women were elected in Michigan and Massachusetts in 1974, numbers have steadily inched up.

In the mid-1980s, the movement re-

PLEASE SEE CUNNINGHAM / 12A

BOOKS

Navratilova's new life in the crime-fiction racket

By Anita Manning
USA TODAY

Martina Navratilova is not one to idle away her retirement years.

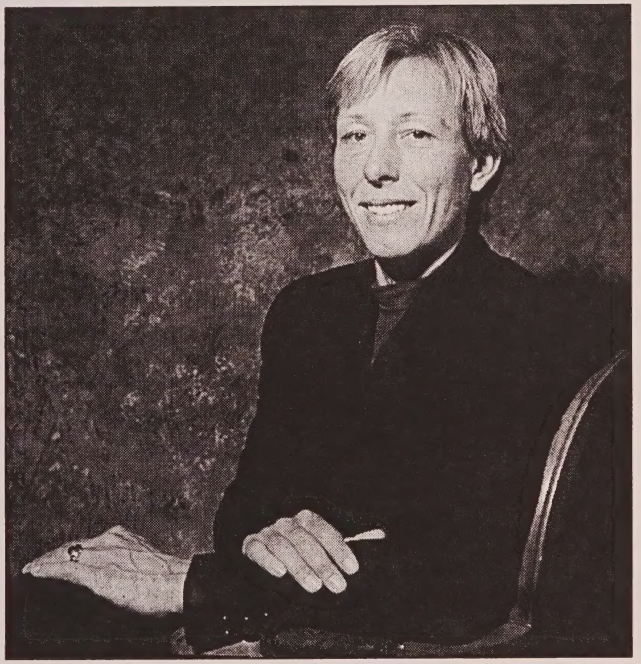
Since her last match on the professional women's tennis circuit in November 1994, she has played exhibition matches, toured with the Virginia Slims Legends Tour, launched the Rainbow Card (a Visa program to raise money for gay and lesbian civil-rights groups), been active in the Corel WTA Tour and the Women's Sports Foundation and, by the way, written a couple of books.

The latest, *Breaking Point* (Villard, $23) is her second mystery novel co-authored with writer Liz Nickles. It follows last year's *Total Zone;* both feature amateur sleuth Jordan Myles, a retired tennis champ who works as a physical therapist for top athletes.

Myles also happens to be a strong-willed, highly independent woman who gets into adventures that show off her bravery, loyalty and physical strength. A chip off the old block? "Well, I can't imagine having the main character a wimp," says Navratilova.

She confesses to sharing some of Myles' characteristics: "It's fiction, but obviously, no matter what fiction anybody writes, there's a lot of them in it. . . . Yes, of course there's a lot of me in there, but I'm not going to tell you which parts."

Both author and fictional character are vegetarians. And both are deeply enamored of their small dogs. Like Myles, who travels with a Jack Russell terrier named A.M. (for tennis legend Alice Marble), Navratilova is rarely without her much-loved toy fox terrier, K.D. — Killer Dog — who is routinely sneaked into places where pets aren't allowed.



By H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

Martina Navratilova: In the '60s, tennis 'was still a sport of individuals. . . . Players would coach each other.' Today, 'everybody's in it for themselves.'

The elderly pooch, nearly 15 years old, reclines on a pillow at Navratilova's side during an interview. K.D., who could have been the inspiration for the movie *Gremlins,* arrived in Washington, D.C., via Amtrak, having traveled undercover.

"I put her under my jacket 'cause they're not supposed to be on the train," says Navratilova, flashing that famous grin. "I smuggle her to restaurants; she goes everywhere."

An easy bit of deception for a mystery novelist. Navratilova seems to like the literary life.

"I think the second (mystery novel) is better than the first one," she says. "There's more action, and all of it is very plausible. All of it could have happened or could still happen, and that's what I like."

The collaboration, in which both work on plotting and character development and Nickles does the writing, is "very much a joint effort," Navratilova says, "otherwise I wouldn't be putting my name on it.

"Liz is a writer, but she'd never written a murder mystery. I've written articles and my biography *(Martina,* a 1985 best seller) but nothing of this genre, so we're both sort of learning on the job. It's been fun."

It began two years ago, when Nickles approached Navratilova's agent with a proposal that the two work together on a mystery tale, drawing on the tennis star's intimate understanding of the politics and competitive pressures of top-ranked athletes on the tennis circuit.

"I said, why not? It would be fun, would be something else to do besides the norm of being on the tour. I liked it because it was different. I knew I would have to give it a lot of time and effort, but it was something so off from what I was used to doing I thought it would be enjoyable."

The result is a novel full of wonderful, authentic, insider tidbits (such as the fact that Jimmy Connors is notorious for suffering cramps, often caused by dehydration). It also addresses the ins and outs of commercial endorsements and the role money plays in sports.

Navratilova still plays tennis almost every afternoon, after snowboarding in the morning near her Aspen, Colo., home. She likes to cook Thai or Indian food for friends and see movies at local theaters in the evening. "I haven't had a difficult time so far finding other things to do and feeling that I'm missing out on this huge adrenalin rush or this competitive thing," she says.

"People keep saying, 'What are you doing?' I say, 'Nothing.' They say, 'Well, when are you going to figure out what you're going to do?' I say, 'I don't know.'

"I have all these weeks at a time where I have no schedule. I'm loving every day of it."

Bio

▶ **Age:** 39
▶ **Career:** Won more than 1,400 tennis matches, more than any other professional player in the history of tennis.
▶ **Most admires:** Billie Jean King, Katharine Hepburn, Barbara Jordan, Alexander the Great.
▶ **Music:** "If I wanted to do anything rather than play tennis, I wanted to be a musician" playing piano, drums or guitar. Favorite artists include Melissa Etheridge, Elton John, Ella Fitzgerald, Annie Lennox and Patsy Cline. Likes country, reggae, urban beat, "anything but heavy metal."
▶ **Causes:** Gay and lesbian rights. Animal rights. Environment.
▶ **Where she sees herself in 10 years:** "I have no idea."

Excerpt

Clay is a very honest surface. The great equalizer, they call it. Of all the surfaces in tennis, it brings out a player's best, worst and most unexpected elements. . . . Clay's granular grit bites into the big serves and ground strokes that play so well on other surfaces. Clay slows things down, gives that extra split second to hit a passing shot.

It's an advantage that serves me well, and today I have exploited it. Still, I feel like a charlatan. I am not the better player, but I am the superior strategist. And tennis is often more mental than physical, especially at the championship level when both players have so many gifts.

— *From* **Breaking Point**

GALAA

GALAA

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama

April, 1995

Uncle Sam has generously given you until the 17th this year to file your tax returns since the 15th is on a Saturday. But you need to get yours done before Saturday. GALAA, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, will be holding our monthly meeting April 15 at the Birmingham Public Library in the auditorium. This weekend the Southern Shootout softball tournament is also going on in Birmingham. No one will want to be at home filling out last-minute 1040's with so much going on in the community!

This GALAA meeting is a very important one. We will be moving toward the decision of whether to take on the lawsuit against the state of Alabama regarding the Sexual Misconduct law. This would be a far-reaching project. We need the participation of as many members of the Community as we can get involved with this decision and with the project itself if we opt to pursue it. Your input is important.

We also will be proceeding with work on the Community Directory. People have been calling and sending in information on gay-owned, gay-friendly, or gay-oriented businesses and services. If you haven't done so yet, please call the GALAA line at (205) GALAA-86 or send them to PO Box 36784, Birmingham, AL 35236-6784. Plans currently call for the directory to hit the streets in August. There's lots of work to be done between now and then!

We are also working on the 1995 Alabama Entertainer contest. Prelims will be kicked off in Huntsville next month! We have five contests coming up in the months ahead before the finals in November. Another project in the works in the months ahead is the GALAA Video Project. We are planning to produce an informational documentary style video about "ordinary" people living next door who happen to be Gay or Lesbian.

We have received lots of positive comments about the FAMILY VALUES version of our newsletter that went out last month. If you'd like to write something for the summer issue, send it to the GALAA P.O. box and we will consider it for publication in that issue, which you can expect to see in June.

These are the major projects that are currently online at GALAA. There are other smaller (though important) things going on too. We have lots of ways for you to be involved!

We really do want you and every member of the Gay and Lesbian Community to be involved with our efforts at GALAA. We sincerely hope that you will take a few moments today and become a member of GALAA. Membership for 1995 is only $10.00. We also need people who want to work with us on projects we have going on like the ones listed above. We want you to become as active a member as you want to be. Virtually all of our work is done by members of the Lesbian and Gay Community volunteering to help make Alabama a better place for us to live and work.

Won't you establish your membership today? We really do want you and your friends to take an active step with us. We keep our membership at a low $10.00 so more people can be on the GALAA team. We're holding a spot for you! If you have any questions, please call or write us.

The April 15 Meeting in Birmingham

This month's meeting is at the Birmingham Public Library in the auditorium. The library is located on North 21st Street at Park Place near the court house. Take the 22nd street exit off I-59/20 from either direction, go down to 4th Avenue and turn right. The next street will be 21st (which is one-way north, 22nd is one-way south). Come up 21st until you see the library. The number to call if you get lost is 908-0589 or the library main desk at 226-3600.

Help us "Kill-a-Keg" Saturday night at Mikatam!

After Saturday's GALAA meeting (starting at 5PM) we will be having a fund-raiser at Mikatam. Join us for Bud Shootout One. Five bucks give you unlimited access Saturday to the keg as we celebrate the 13th annual Southern Shootout softball tourney in Birmingham!.

GALAA FAMILY VALUES

A quarterly publication of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama

January, February, March, 1996

WELCOME TO 1996!
WHAT COULD THIS YEAR HOLD FOR OUR COMMUNITY? LET'S LOOK . . .

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU...

Will the last state to join the union become the first among the 50 to sanction same-sex marriages? It could happen in 1996. The Aloha State could take action by this summer that would have a ripple effect throughout the other 49. Members of both sides of the issue are predicting a nation-wide fight concerning the family, gay rights, love, and marriage itself.

1996 is also a major election year. Positions from the court house to the White House are up for grabs. The issue of same-sex marriage could become an issue in many of them.

In Hawaii, the state Supreme Court ruled that the denial of a marriage license to a same-sex couple is unconstitutional unless the state can come up with a "compelling interest" for that denial. The state attorney general is cooking up a case to argue for "compelling interest" for a case now scheduled for July.

A commission appointed by the governor to study the issue has recommended that same-sex couples be allowed to marry. However, the state legislature has not acted to change the law to allow it.

Most Hawaiian court experts feel that the attorney general will not convince the court and it will in effect legalize gay and lesbian marriage after all the legal i's are dotted and t's crossed.

Back on the continent, other state legislatures are fearful of our success. In 1995, Utah passed a law condemning same-sex marriages. Similar bills were introduced in South Dakota and Alaska. Neither of those passed, but the South Dakota bill is scheduled for reintroduction in the upcoming legislative session. Though Fob James nor the legislature here in Alabama have mentioned the issue as of our print date, can we not expect similar homophobic legislation to come into law from Montgomery in the near future?

HAWAII, OUR 50TH STATE COULD BECOME THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES TO TIE THE KNOT!
CAN YOU SAY "ALOHA"?

A favorable court ruling in Hawaii is just the beginning. When lesbians and gays from across America fly to Hawaii to claim the right of marriage it is almost certain that a majority of them will find it hard to get their vows recognized at home.

This long-overdue right will not automatically be granted everywhere. The religious right is fighting us tooth and nail on this issue. Only 49 other state rulings or a Supreme Court edict can preserve this right for all gay and lesbian Americans.

— WANDA DAVIES

GALAA

GALAA IS THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA. FAMILY VALUES IS OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GALAA, YOU MAY CONTACT US. SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS.

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1996 IS AN ELECTION YEAR. REGISTER AND VOTE!!!!!

This is a most-important year in politics all across America. In 1996 we will be electing officials who will run our municipalities, states, and our nation until the end of the century. Many conservatives and virtually all of the so-called "religious right" are hoping to oust the current residents of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue after this year.

"How can you be a Republican when you're gay? It just doesn't compute!"
—Martina Navratilova to the ***Advocate***

One of GALAA's main planks in our platform is that it is so important for each member of the lesbian and gay community to register and vote. We cannot afford the luxury of a single one of us not voting.

Individually, we can only do so much. But collectively, we can sway close elections. We can make the difference between helping choose candidates who will stand with us and candidates who would stand against us.

It looks like '96 is going to be a crucial year on every political front. Do not make the mistake of thinking that your vote is insignificant! It is important.

No matter what your political affiliation or your perception of politics, it is most important that you educate yourself on the candidates and VOTE!!!

Look for future information from GALAA on the candidates and the issues we will deal with during Election '96.

— FRANK ALLEN

inside...
Family Viewpoints, the RAINBOW PAGES, and more on marriage — pages 2-3
News from across America, upcoming GALAA and other events — pages 4-5
How GALAA is actively involved in things that affect YOU! — page 6

FAMILY VIEWPOINTS FROM OUR READERS

EDITOR'S NOTE — THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO COLUMNS WHICH APPEARED IN THE *OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS* DURING THE FALL OF 1995 DISCUSSING "CHANGE THERAPY" FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GAY, LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL. THE COLUMNS ADVOCATED THAT THESE PEOPLE CAN CHANGE, SHOULD CHANGE, AND MUST CHANGE. THIS LETTER OF RESPONSE WAS SENT TO GALAA WITH A REQUEST THAT WE REPRINT IT FOR OUR READERS AND AS A MODEL FOR OTHER PSYCHOLOGISTS AND COUNSELORS TO FOLLOW. IT WAS NOTED BY THE PSYCHOLOGIST WHO SENT US THE LETTER THAT THE WRITERS OF THE COLUMNS IN THE *OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS* WERE COLUMNISTS AND NOT PSYCHOTHERAPISTS.

NOTHING WRONG WITH HOMOSEXUALITY

There have been two columns within the last months which appeared in the *Opelika-Auburn News*, which have discussed people who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and whether they can and should be "changed." Each of these columns spoke about this phenomenon from the perspective of psychology. Each columnist advocates that "change therapy" works, should be advocated for, and is something which will make people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual healthier and happier. Neither of the columnists is a psychologist or counselor, nor do they hold advanced degrees in the science and practice of psychology.

This then is an open statement to the community of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight.

We are psychologists and counselors with training, degrees and practices in psychology. We affirm that people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual are not defined solely nor simply by their sexual acts as some purport. People who are gay, lesbian or bisexual are full and complete human beings, with thoughts, emotions, actions, and interpersonal relationships which all work together to create the whole person who is gay, lesbian or bisexual.

We also affirm that being gay, lesbian or bisexual is psychologically healthy. We do not work in our practices to change nor do we advocate change for people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual. There is nothing wrong and there is nothing to change. If people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual do have trouble with who they are, it is due in a large part to the homophobic and biphobic environment in which they are forced to live.

We affirm that we will work to assist people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual to be more comfortable with who they naturally are and we will work to disallow homophobia and biphobia from bringing shame, humiliation and fear into their lives.

Everyone has the right to feel comfortable and safe with who they are, so long as they do not (deny) others this same right. Everyone also has the right to be free from the detrimental effects of prejudice and bigotry.

We, the undersigned, affirm that we will work to assist people who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual in achieving these rights and a state of well being.

This open statement is in accordance with policy developed by the American Psychiatric Association and adopted by the American Psychological Association which states, "Homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social and vocational capabilities. Further, the American Psychological Association urges all mental health professionals to take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness that has long been associated with homosexual orientations" (American Psychological Association, 1975).

Barry A. Schreier, Ph.D.
Elizabeth W. Brazelton, Ph.D.
Becky Liddle, Ph.D.
Barry Burkhart, Ph.D.
Robin S. Kurtz, Ed.D
Peggy Brown-Myers, Ph.D.
Lee Stutts, Ph.D.
Holly Stadler, Ph.D.
Vern Russell, Ph.D.

MORE READERS' MAIL — LOWER HALF OF PAGE 3

"WE'VE HAD TOO MANY WORLD AIDS DAYS"

— ACTOR RICHARD GERE, NOVEMBER 30, 1995 AS HE RECEIVED AN AWARD FROM THE HARVARD AIDS INSTITUTE FOR HIS ACTIVISM

MORE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Hawaii could make same-sex marriage a reality this summer. But lesbians and gays already are making commitments and have been for years.

Holy Unions and other religious ceremonies have been performed for several years by MCC's and other more open-minded churches. MTV viewers witnessed *The Real World*'s Pedro Zamora tie the knot with his partner Sean in 1994.

Some cities in this country allow same-sex couples to register. This allows them some limited rights. Palo Alto, California recently joined this list. Even in the face of Colorado's Amendment 2, the cities of Denver and Boulder are considering similar ordinances.

Late last year an episode of TV's *Roseanne* featured a marriage ceremony between two men. A lesbian wedding ceremony is the feature of the January 18 episode of NBC's *Friends*.

The *Roseanne* episode had the series' best rating since the season premiere. An interesting twist to this show was the part played by actress June Lockhart. Her role was that of the mother of one of the grooms (Leon, played by Martin Mull). You may recall that Lockhart was also the mother of Timmy (in the CBS series *Lassie*) in the 50's and was who Will Robinson called "Mom" in the mid-60's series *Lost In Space*. (Whatever happened to that kid, anyway?) Alas, however, no gay or lesbian couple has yet to show up on any of the futuristic *Star Trek* TV series or any of the movies spun off from the series.

Denmark, Norway, and Sweden now allow same-sex partners to register with the state and claim some of the prerogatives of marriage. The Dutch government is leaning toward similar measures.

In France and Belgium, cities and other local governments have begun recognizing same-sex partnerships with limited privileges.

Just a few days into 1996, Astride Indricane and Birgita Bohvinger became the first lesbians to marry under Latvia's post-communist government.

Perhaps in a few years from now, the next generation of same-sex partners will find articles such as this 'historical' but moot in a society that blesses all unions between two loving adults.

— COMPILED FROM INTERNET NEWS SOURCES

YOU BETTER WORK!

January 7, West Hollywood, California, 6PM to midnight. You should have been there! It was the music video shoot for a new recording of the gay anthem "I Will Survive", a duet between DIANA ROSS and RUPAUL.

The theme of the shoot was a gay and lesbian pride celebration with thousands of marchers and onlookers. The idea was to recreate the 1995 Christopher Street West Parade. The theme of the parade was "Freedom to Marry" and extras at the video shoot were encouraged to wear Hawaiian shirts to demonstrate the importance of the Hawaii Marriage case on the Freedom to Marry.

The reason for the song is to create a new "gay anthem" for the 90's and show that the Les/Bi/Gay community will continue to be out and proud in 1996 regardless of the increased presence of a right-wing backlash.

RuPaul and Diana Ross are doing the song as a gift to their gay and lesbian fans. The video will be released to MTV and other music video outlets in early February.

GALAA says "YOU GO GIRLS!"

— INFO FROM BUCKMIRE@OXY.EDU

GALAA's *RAINBOW PAGES* Is A Huge 1995 Success

Businesses and service providers in Alabama who are either gay-owned, gay-friendly, and/or gay-oriented got a chance to reach out and touch members of our community this year via the 1995-1996 edition of the GALAA *RAINBOW PAGES*.

This was our first effort at such a publication. Even though we studied those produced for other cities such as Atlanta, Cincinnati, and Washington, D.C. , we had no idea how such a publication would go over in Alabama.

One thing making our job more difficult was the attempt to include listings from Alabama and other Southeastern cities. It turned out to be a monumental task.

However, editor Adam Plier and company was able to produce a super-professional looking volume one in spite of having to start at square one.

Everyone (including the staff, to be honest) has been pleasantly surprised at how great the *RAINBOW PAGES* have turned out. Though it is a relatively small book (compared to the other cites), for the first year, it receives an A+.

Almost immediately after the first issues were distributed, calls came into the GALAA line from businesses and service providers wanting to be listed and advertise in the next edition. Many people from all over the state are declaring that this is a service long overdue around here. Everyone seems to be pleased with the result.

However, the time for celebrating the "old" edition is passing. Adam and the *RAINBOW PAGES* staff are already making plans for the 1996-1997 edition which will hit the streets this fall.

We have learned that it is never too early to start planning for a monumental task like the *RAINBOW PAGES*. Even though the initial production is now history and everyone involved has picked up some valuable experience, GALAA anticipates that the next and future editions will grow and be even bigger successes.

The *RAINBOW PAGES* staff has declared that advertisers who buy space by May 1, 1996, will receive an early advertiser bonus. Even though the ad rates will be slightly higher in the 1996-1997 edition, the early advertisers will be able to pre-purchase 1996 ad space at 1995 ad rates. If this offer interests you, give us a call at (205) GALAA-86 for full details.

Once again GALAA is asking the community to provide us with the names and addresses of gay-owned, gay-friendly, and/or gay-oriented businesses and service providers in Alabama and bordering states that may like to be listed or advertise in the upcoming edition of Alabama's *RAINBOW PAGES*.

Please send the business name, address, phone number, the name of a contact at the business to us at the mail address on page 6 of this FAMIλY VALUES. Also tell us what type of business it is. We need listings for all types . . . florists, dentists, restaurants, you name it!

Remember to call on the businesses listed in the GALAA *RAINBOW PAGES* whenever you can. These people help support you and our community. When you do business with them thank them for their support and tell them you look forward to seeing their ad in the next edition. It helps us when they know people in our community see their ads and listings and use their services.

GALAA is proud to provide this service to the lesbian and gay community of Alabama. If you would like to help work on the production of the *RAINBOW PAGES* contact us at (205) GALAA-86.

Please Note:

GALAA was established as a state-wide organization. We keep in touch with the cities and towns across Alabama through Area Coordinators. These Area Coordinators primarily serve as contacts with community members locally and work with state-wide Administrative Officials. We would like to establish Area Coordinators in more areas of the state. Also, the Area Coordinator positions for the cities of Huntsville and Mobile both became vacant in 1995. If you would be interested in working with us as an Area Coordinator, please call the GALAA line at (205) GALAA-86 or E-MAIL us at GALAA1@AOL.COM.

FAMIλY VIEWPOINTS FROM OUR READERS

It is my great pleasure to announce to (the FAMIλY VALUES') readership that the United Methodist Youth National Organization is petitioning United Methodism's 1996 General Conference to delete from the Book of Disciple language prohibiting ordaining or appointing "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" and a paragraph which prohibits the use of national church funds by gay groups or caucuses.

Other groups are also petitioning The United Methodist Churches official governing body for gay friendly changes. These range from allowing same-sex holy unions churchwide to legislation that would prohibit discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons anywhere, in any congregation, or church related institution.

I encourage the readership to send letters of support to the General Conference delegates from your area.

— MARK WILSON, TUSCALOOSA

EDITOR'S NOTE — IF YOU WOULD LIKE NAMES AND ADDRESS OF THESE DELEGATES, THEY ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING (205) GALAA-86. ROOM DOES NOT PERMIT PUBLISHING THEM HERE. EXERTS FROM MARK'S LETTER TO THE REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWS IN THE NEXT COLUMN

No one knows for certain what makes a person heterosexual or homosexual. However, all modern research and evidence indicate that one's sexual orientation is genetically linked, and that one's sexual orientation is a deep-seated part of a person's emotional, physical and spiritual makeup. A person cannot change his/her sexual orientation, but can only choose how one reacts to it.

In searching the New Testament I find no reference at all to the state of being homosexual. I find a few references, very few, to homosexual behaviors (none of which were quotes of Jesus), in which homosexual promiscuity and unnatural homosexual acts committed by heterosexuals are not condoned. None of these refers to homosexual actions on the part of those for whom homosexuality is the natural and normal way of sexual expression.

In searching the New Testament I find several references to divorce being unacceptable behavior for Christians (including Jesus himself being sharply critical of those who divorce, and those who divorce and remarry are labeled by Jesus as adulterers). It looks to me as though there is a hypocritical and pharasaical double standard at work here.

The church, while officially claiming that homosexuals no less than heterosexuals are persons of sacred worth who need the ministry and guidance of the church, turns around and states that homosexuals are of less worth than heterosexuals by denying them the sanctity of holy unions, by saying that our natural sexual expression is not compatible with Christian teaching, and by denying appointment and ordination to self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

This is wrong. The New Testament does not address the issue of same-sex relations between persons for whom homosexuality is natural and normal. Jesus himself addresses divorce and remarriage and is very clear about these issues. I do not advocate harshness toward divorced persons. I advocate and affirm respect, equality, and fairness in our treatment of all persons.

God made me who I am and what I am. Ignorance, fear and homophobia are rampant within the church and without, and the time for a new direction is now.

— COMPLETE COPIES OF THIS PIECE ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Community Events and News From Around The Country

Common Ground Goes Semi-Monthly At MCC

GALAA is very pleased to announce that Common Ground, the bar/park Friday night alternative for youthful lesbians and gays, has found a permanent home. The Board of Covenant MCC unanimously approved holding Common Ground in cooperation with GALAA on the second and fourth Friday nights of each month from 7PM to 10PM.

Common Ground will meet at the CMCC fellowship hall on 1st Avenue North in Birmingham. This is, of course, at the property recently acquired (permanently!) for use by Covenant.

Mark your calendars for Common Ground meetings coming up this quarter on January 26, February 9 & 23, and March 8 & 22. Also note that the April dates will be the 12th and 26th if you care to plan that far in advance.

For more information, call (205) GALAA-86.

8th Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival

April 4-7. We fought the battles in court to have our festival on our land. The first $10,000 land payment is due the week after the festival. GCWF is the biggest annual fund-raiser for Sister Spirit, Inc. If you can't come, please send a donation. Sister Spirit, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) IRS recognized organization.

Come and create this Lesbian-Feminist Festival on sober land and in safespace at Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Mississippi. Are there 200 Womyn who can be here to enable us to make the payment? Your support is vital. Write to us at P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464 or call us at (601) 344-2005. Our E-mail address is Sisterspir@AOL.COM if you have access to the Internet.

No alcohol or illegal drugs, pets, firearms or fireworks please.

GLBA At UofA Hosts College Conference

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance (GLBA) of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa announces

Voices of Diversity
"Living Out in the South"

Voices of Diversity is the fifth annual Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference. It will be held February 16-17 on the Campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The GLBA is proud to sponsor this event and GALAA encourages you to help them make it a smashing success. For more information, contact the GLBA directly. Call (205) 348-7210 or write to them at P.O. Box 4595, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486. E-mail can be addressed to: GLBA@UA1VM.UA.EDU if you have access to the Internet.

GALAA Meetings

GALAA meetings and GALAA cosponsored events for the first quarter include:

January 20
GALAA meeting - Rumors in Tuscaloosa
Druids Ball to benefit West Alabama AIDS Outreach Tuscaloosa

January 22, 23, 24
Alabama AIDS Conference - Montgomery

February 16, 17
Voices of Diversity - Tuscaloosa

February 24
GALAA meeting - Auburn

March 16
GALAA meeting - Birmingham

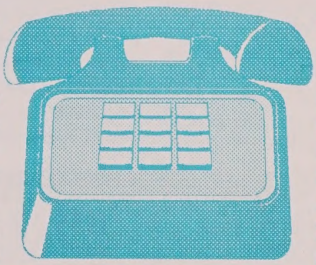
March 23
The GALAA Gala - benefit for Sexual Misconduct Legal Fund - Birmingham

2nd & 4th Fridays Each Month
Common Ground - CMCC Birmingham

For more detailed information about any of these meetings you can always call the GALAA line at (205) GALAA-86. Please leave your name, number and a message concerning which events you need details for. A GALAA representative will return you call as soon as possible.

Donate To GALAA While On The Phone?

Now you can donate some money to a worthwhile cause while talking long distance on the phone! Community Spirit long distance will donate 3% of your long distance charges to GALAA if you sign up to have Community Spirit as your primary long distance carrier. Community Spirit is the only long distance company in America that can boast being owned and operated totally by members of the gay community.



GALAA encourages its members to consider making the switch. It's another way to support gay and lesbian owned businesses and keep our hard-earned bucks working for us in our community.

Call **1-800-IT'S-OURS** (1-800-487-6877) and tell them you want to switch to Community Spirit.

Also tell them you want your 3% contribution to go to GALAA. Our organization number which you'll need to give them is **3632.**

Our (205) GALAA-86 line uses Community Spirit for all its long distance calls. When you switch be sure to give them the organization code of **3632** to make sure GALAA gets your 3% contribution.

They are the only one who can really say we should use it because "IT'S OURS".

Be Counted! Call 1-800-GAY-VOICE

(1-800-429-8642)

Overlooked Opinions was founded in 1989 as the nation's only lesbian, gay, and bi owned and operated survey firm. O.O. is trying to complete a census of lesbian and gay North America. The census takes about 10 minutes and is a little cumbersome, but it is important that we be counted. The information will be used to compile statistical information about gays and lesbians. There is a pitch for Community Spirit long distance at the end, but you don't have to switch if you don't want to (although we encourage you to consider it - see the article immediately above this one). The company makes money from gathering this statistical information, but it helps make a statement about how many of us there are and helps determine how national advertisers will spend money in gay and lesbian media. It strengthens our community . . . call today!

GALAA

Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, Inc

<u>House Bill 142 and Senate Bill 396</u> have been introduced in the Alabama Legislature that would "prohibit marriages between persons of the same sex in Alabama, and prohibit the legal recognition of same sex marriages formed outside the State of Alabama."

GALAA is involved in a letter writing campaign to encourage all Alabama House and Senate members to vote **against** these extremely discriminatory and un-constitutional bills.

Here is what you can do:

1] Write a letter to your Senator or Representative. If you do not know who they are write your letter to Governor Fob James. The address is **Alabama State House, 11 South Union Street, Montgomery 36130.** In your letter tell a brief personal story about how you have always dreamed of marrying, how marriage brings families together or how you hope one day you will be able to marry the one you love. Say that these bills discriminate and take away your right to decide if you will accept the responsibilities of marriage. This is about basic human rights --- the right to love, cherish and support. This is about freedom.

Send your responses to GALAA for your chance at winning prizes from businesses from all over Alabama.

2] Call the State House and speak directly to the office of your Senator or Representative or the Governor. **Call 334-242-8000.**

3] Give this flyer to your friends and encourage them to do something. You do not have to be 'out' to let your views be known. Tell your Senator or Representative that you are against this bill because you believe that all people should be treated equally by the law.

These bills will be voted on soon so **please act now.**

POB 36784, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35236/205-GALAA86

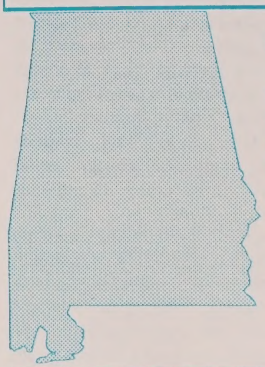
1917 Offers 'Healing Note Cards'

The 1917 is offering for public sale original art on cards done by patients of the 1917 Clinic in Birmingham. These cards called "Healing Arts Note Cards" come in packages of 10 for only $15. For more information about volunteering to sell, distribute or purchase these cards that will directly benefit the 1917 Clinic, call Ann Mollebgarden or Kelly Culpitts at (205) 934-1917.

College Freshman More Conservative On Casual Sex, Abortion, More Liberal On Gays

The American Council on Education has given over 323,000 college freshman a survey to determine their views on a host of subjects ranging from abortion to sex and drugs. These first-year college students are demonstrating less support for legal abortion and casual sex than those in school a decade ago.

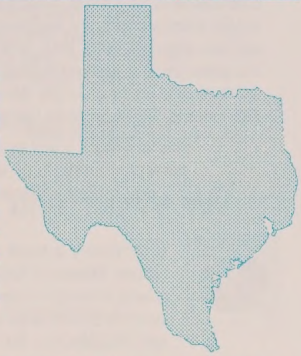
They have become quite liberal, however, in their support for the legalization of marijuana. 34 percent believe the weed should be made legal . . . twice the number supporting decriminalization seven years ago. The number of these students who believe that gay relationships should be "prohibited" has fallen from over half (53%) in 1987 to a new record low of 30.6%.



Alabama School Board Praises Gadsden's Homophobia

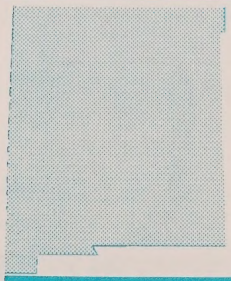
The Alabama State Board of Education has proven that to be homophobic and uneducated is more important than being true to their gay and lesbian students in the state. Last month the board unanimously approved a motion to *commend* the Gadsden Board of Education for its stand against the National Education Association's "support for the celebration of a Lesbian and Gay History Month as a means of acknowledging the contributions of lesbians and gays throughout history." The Gadsden resolution stated: "Such a celebration does not reflect the mores and values of the citizens of Gadsden" and "such an observance is not supported by the employees of the Gadsden City School District and the Gadsden City Board of Education." GALAA feels that the Gadsden School system should be more concerned with the health and safety of their gay and lesbian students instead of worrying about the perceived 'mores and values' of the citizens outside the schools. Gay and lesbian youth are over 30% more likely to commit suicide than other students. Showing the great gays in history could only educate all the students and encourage debate. It might even save a young life. Please write Governor Fob James and/or Dr. Ed Richardson, Alabama Board of Education, 5303 Persons Building, Montgomery, AL 36130.

Right-Wing Battles Texas Gay Paper



A conservative Christian group has started a full-scale war with a gay newspaper. The zealots are trying to stop Texas businesses from advertising in the publication. The Texas Triangle has been circulated in the gay community across Texas since 1992. The Triangle distributes tens of thousands of copies each week. The publication is professional and has won awards . . . it does not publish sexually graphic material, though it does run cartoons poking fun at the so-called "religious right". Wyatt Roberts, head of the Texas chapter of the American Family Association (the same folks who stir up trouble from their base in Tupelo, Mississippi) has read the names of advertisers over the air on a radio station in Austin. He has accused the paper of condoning pedophilia, incest and blasphemy. Last month he wrote letters to advertisers demanding that they pull their ads from the paper. Roberts claims some advertisers have withdrawn their ads. The Triangle's editor, Kay Longcope said that the AFA's actions have actually helped the paper. She said that several of the advertisers (straight businesspeople) are hopping mad at the religious fanatics for trying to dictate where their advertising dollars will be spent. She further claimed the new advertisers are coming on board as a means of showing their support for the Triangle.

Also in Texas, the recent slaying of a gay man outside a tavern near Houston has prompted U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee to announce that she will seek federal action on hate crimes. The Houston Democrat said that as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, she will ask the committee to hold hearings on hate crimes occurring across the nation. Fred Mangione, 46, was stabbed to death and his partner Kenneth Stern was beaten January 4. Half-brothers Daniel Christopher Bean, 19, and Ronald Henry Gauthier, 21, were arrested near the scene with blood on them. Bean and Gauthier, both of Columbia Falls, Montana, claim to be members of the "German Peace Corps", reportedly a California based Neo-Nazi organization. Witnesses reported that the two alleged killers had set out that night on a mission to "get a fag". The group has been linked to alleged incidents of violence against blacks and gays.



New Mexico Conference Unites Rural Communities

More than ninety gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community leaders from across New Mexico met in Elephant Butte for New Mexico's first statewide LesBiGay planning session, sponsored by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights in New Mexico. The summit was successful in its goal of bringing leaders together to build a strong infrastructure for support, advocay and political action on behalf of sexual minorities in New Mexico. Summit participants developed legislative and lobbying plans, including hiring a lobbyist, communication networks; a regional meeting schedule; a voter registration drive; a New Mexico Gay and Lesbian Family Reunion; support of regional groups and skills training programs. The group declared the Internet as critical for Gay and Lesbian people of rural states like New Mexico as it gives instant communication with people who otherwise never get to meet, exchange ideas, and it gets the word out on important issues. GALAA salutes our new sister organization in the Land of Enchantment and wishes them success in all their endeavors.

GALAA Is Taking An Active Role In Things That Affect YOU On The Political Homefront!

GALAA, in our continuing effort to educate our community as well as the heterosexual community, has written to all the announced United States Senate candidates. Senator Howell Heflin is not running for re-election in 1996 and many Alabamians are putting their names in the hat for this race.

GALAA is asking for a face-to-face meeting with each of them so that we can personally discuss the many important issues that impact our community with the candidates. We have contacted Democrats Natilie Davis, State Senator Roger Bedford, U.S. Representative Glen Browder, and Bruce Lucero.

Republicans Sid McDonald, Dr. Jimmy Blake, State Senator Albert Lipscomb, Jim Zeigler, Frank McRight and Richard Sellers have also been contacted by our officers.

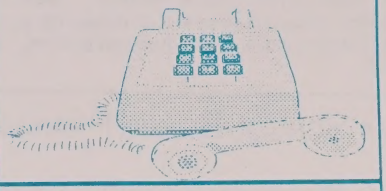
As the race develops and the issues of this campaign heat up, we will certainly keep the community informed about the responses we receive and how receptive each candidate is to fairness and equality for all people of Alabama.

U.S. Senators are elected for 6-year terms and a large number are elected to multiple terms. The individual who wins the race this November could well be in office until 2008, 2014, 2020 or beyond! It is of the utmost importance that our community speak its mind via the ballot box this coming fall. Stay tuned to GALAA for all the information!

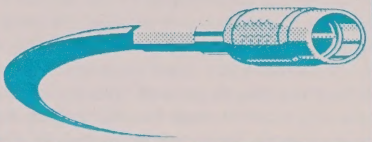
—DAVID WHITE, GALAA STATE COORDINATOR

We're Easy To Reach!

(205) GALAA-86



GALAA1@AOL.COM



P.O. BOX
36784
B'HAM, AL
35236-6784

Thanks to the patrons and bar owners at Bill's Club in Birmingham, HoJon's and Jimmy Max in Montgomery, and two extremely generous GALAA members 'The Lawsuit Fund' balance has reached $3,887.65 as of January 9. GALAA has voted to spearhead the drive to raise $20,000 to challenge the State of Alabama's Sexual Misconduct / Sodomy Law in court. This law says that 'any act of sexual gratification between persons not married to each other, involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another' is a crime and is punishable by not more than one year in prison, plus fines.

This law affects all practicing unmarried heterosexuals and all sexually active homosexuals. This law is WRONG and is an invasion of YOUR PRIVACY.

This law is also used to discriminate against gay men and lesbians and is used to justify ridiculous actions by the Alabama Legislature. In 1992, during the debate of allowing gay men and lesbians to serve their country and be 'out', the Alabama Legislature passed a bill encouraging the United States Congress to keep the ban against homosexuals in place citing the Sexual Misconduct Law.

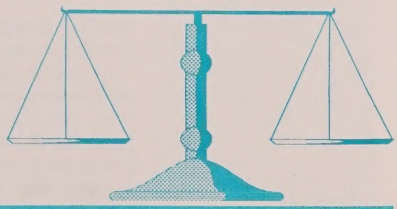
After the Auburn University Student Government Association tried to deny funding to the Auburn Gay and Lesbian Alliance because they felt the gay group was going to 'encourage' students to break the Sexual Misconduct Law, the Alabama Legislature passed a bill supporting the SGA, again citing the Sexual Misconduct Law as grounds.

It is time that we as a community come together to fight for what is right and fair. The Sexual Misconduct Law is neither. The only way that things can legally change here in Alabama is for us to push for a change. Make a commitment now to help us reach our goal of $20,000.

Don't let the Alabama Legislature continue to use this abominable law as a basis for promoting homophobia, hatred, and intolerance against a portion of its citizens.

Send your donation or make a monthly pledge to:

The GALAA Legal Fund
Post Office Box 36784
Birmingham, Alabama 35236-6784



We Want You To Be A Part of GALAA!!!

Our community is made up of a large number of diverse people. GALAA, The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama is entering our third year of service to that community. We provide information, service, and support in many ways. But we need more skills, more volunteers, more funds, and more community support to continue our present services and add new ones.

We would like to have you become a member of GALAA, Alabama's only state-wide organization in the lesbian and gay community. We are working to unite the members of our diverse community into a more cohesive body. We encourage gays and lesbians to work together in spite of our diversity in a spirit of cooperation that helps everyone.

In 1995 we published the first-ever directory of gay-owned, gay-oriented, and/or gay-friendly businesses for Alabama, the *RAINBOW PAGES*. We started *COMMON GROUND*, an alternative to the parks and the bars for youthful lesbians and gays. We networked with media watchdogs and responded to anti-gay sentiment in the press. We promoted unity and supported other organizations that worked to benefit the community. We began work on challenging the very law in this state that makes it illegal for us to be who we are.

Great milestones for so young an organization . . . but there is so much more to be done. Whatever your talent or ability, we can probably put it to good use helping our community strengthen itself. Please consider joining us today! 1996 memberships are $20.00 for individuals, $25.00 for couples or organizations, $10.00 for senior citizens and full-time students. Send your **name, partner's name, address, phone number** and **membership** to:

GALAA
Post Office Box 36784
Birmingham, Alabama 35236-6784

The May meeting of GALAA will be held on **Saturday, the 18th** at **Covenant MCC**. The church is at 5117 1st Avenue North in Birmingham. This meeting will start at **NOON** (feel free to bring a brown bag lunch!)

We will have a pretty full agenda for this one. We will elect an Assistant State Coordinator and an Information Coordinator The primary elections are coming up and we will discuss all the political topics associated with it. Two of our members have qualified to run on the ballot as delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago this summer. David White is on the ballot in the 6th congressional district and David Wand is on the ballot in the 7th. If you vote in either of these districts, look for their names!

GALAA has voter registration forms. If you are not a registered voter, you can call us at 205-GALAA-86 and we will send you one so that you can get on the rolls! One of GALAA's goals is 100% registration of voters from OUR community. We need you to be registered and then to vote on June 4.

Other than the presidential election, the most important issue this year in Alabama is the US Senate seat that will be filled. Although we officially do not endorse any political candidate, we do present the views of candidates as far as gay and lesbian issues are concerned. Briefly, we have determined that Republicans Jeff Sessions, Walter Clark, and Sid McDonald are the most anti-gay/lesbian of the candidates. Jeff Sessions, the current Attorney General, has endorsed the anti-marriage bill which died this week in the legislature, fought to stop the Voices of Diversity conference in Tuscaloosa earlier this year, and wrote an amicus brief supporting Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 which is now before the US Supreme Court.

On the flip side, Republican Jimmy Blake and Democrats Natalie Davis and Roger Bedford are the most "gay neutral" candidates. It is our hope that either Dr. Blake will defeat Jeff Sessions in the primary or one of the other two will defeat him in the general election. Either way, be SURE to voice your opinion at your local ballot box on June 4th! That is one of the few places where they cannot discriminate against us! Your vote counts as much as Alabama's largest homophobe!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming GALAA and community events:

FORWARD, NEVER STRAIGHT -- **June 7** at **Club 21** in Birmingham. This fund-raiser for GALAA features the comedy of **Kevin Snow**. There will be two shows at **11:00** and **12:30**!

Birmingham Pride -- **June 9**. GALAA will be present in the park.

Birmingham's Best Entertainer -- **Bill's Club** in Birmingham. The "**Live**" contest is **Thursday, June 20** at **9:00 PM**. The "**Lip-sync**" contest is that **Friday, June 21** at **midnight**.

Huntsville Pride -- **June 22** GALAA will participate. As a matter of fact, we are moving our meeting for June to the 22nd and it will be held in Huntsville in conjunction with Huntsville Pride.

We are working full force on the 1996-97 edition of the Rainbow Pages. When you opened this letter, a card fell out which gives you a chance to suggest three businesses or service providers that might want to be listed. We pay the postage and it's totally anonymous (we will contact the businesses) so fill out the card and send it back to us **today**! If you have more than three to suggest, jot them down and send them to us at PO Box 36784, Birmingham AL 35236-6784 or call 205-GALAA-86.

See you Saturday!

THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA

Family Marriage Project

GALAA is proud to announce the start of the 1996 Legislative letter writing

C O N T E S T

H.B. 142 and S.B. 396 have been introduced in the Alabama Legislature. These Bills, if passed, will outlaw same sex marriages and **will also fine ministers $1000.00 for performing same sex Holy Unions.**

HOW TO ENTER THE CONTEST

1) Register to Vote
2) Write your state representative and state senator and tell them how you feel.
3) When you receive a reply from your state representative or senator, make sure they mention same sex marriage in their letter to you.
4) Send the reply they send you to:

GALAA PO BOX 36784 BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35236

YOU ARE NOW ENTERED!

At the end of the legislative sesssion, about the end of April or Mid-May we will draw from the replys you sent us and the winners will win prizes.

PRIZES SO FAR ARE:

$100 gift certificate from Rainbow LTD in Huntsville
$25 gift certificate from Pearly Gates in Huntsville
and more prizes will be added from across the state each week

ENTER AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE, BUT EACH ENTRY MUST BE AN ORIGINAL REPLY FROM YOUR STATE CONGRESS PERSON.

GALAA

for more information call:
(205) GALAA-86
or
Dee Harrison Area Coordinator
North Alabama (205) 859-1670

design by
FIVE POINT THREE 53 DESIGNS
huntsville

TSL Sports
Hole-in-One Assurance
Best Rates
A+ Rated Insurance
Custom Signs
Free Cash Bonus Prizes
800-356-7868

Subaru adds lesbians to niche drive

MICHAEL WILKE
Crain News Service

Subaru of America is one of the first major marketers to target the lesbian market, part of its ongoing niche marketing approach.

After recognizing a loyal base of lesbian owners — Subaru says its research shows they are four times as likely to own a Subaru as the general market — the automaker decided to launch a campaign, created by Mulryan/Nash of New York, in gay newspapers nationwide.

The effort, to run March through December, is part of a targeted approach also focusing on teachers, medical professionals and others.

Marketers have expressed an increasing, though measured, interest in the gay and lesbian market. American Express Co. is the first major credit card advertiser, with ads hitting April issues of gay magazines, industry executives said.

American Express, which would not confirm the new ads, has promoted its Travelers Cheques for Two with ads by Ogilvy & Mather of New York in gay media for years. Other financial brands are also examining the market.

Because gay-specific creative is still uncommon for mainstream marketers, even fewer have specifically included lesbians. Little research exists, and lesbian consumers remain largely ignored, while gay men have fared slightly better.

Hiram Walker & Sons' Tuaca liqueurs broke a campaign featuring lesbians last August created by Jordan Hamilton in New York.

Standard campaign ads from Saab Cars USA broke the auto category into gay media in November 1994, with work from Angotti, Thomas, Hedge in New York. Saturn Corp. ran one ad from Hal Riney & Partners in San Francisco in May 1995.

Subaru is the first Japanese automaker to use gay media, and its campaign — which includes gay males as well — follows its sponsorship of the Rainbow affinity Visa card, currently running in gay magazines. Ad agency Do Tell of Conshohocken, Pa., created the ad for the Rainbow Card Foundation.

Subaru media spending in 1995 revved to $53.3 million through November, up 68 percent from the same period in 1994, according to Competitive Media Reporting.

The budget will rise about 2.5 percent in 1996, said Tricia Cuddy, integrated marketing manager.

"Three years ago we were trying to be a competitor in the mainstream and that ... wasn't working," a Subaru spokesman said.

So the automaker switched its focus to all-wheel drive and wagons, shifting its marketing to narrow but loyal groups. Lead agency Temerlin-McClain in Dallas handles all other aspects of the target market approach. AN

Subaru is the first Japanese auto company to use gay media.

Trends spotted in Leopard marketing

JAMES B. TREECE
Staff Reporter

TOKYO — Nissan Motor Co.'s new Leopard will not be sold outside Japan, but the luxury sedan is significant for reasons that go beyond its sales territory.

The Leopard, introduced here last week, replaces the Leopard J. Ferie, which was sold in the United States as the Infiniti J30. The J30 has been replaced by the I30 in Infiniti's lineup.

UAB CLASS

PSC 350-IS THE POLITICS OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

(3 credit hours)

when: Spring quarter, March 20 - May 29

Monday & Wednesday, 10:25 - 12:30

where: Ullman Building, Room 126

Taught by Professor Steven Haeberle,
Dept. of Political Science & Public Affairs, UAB

Texts:

Mark Blasius, *gay and lesbian politics*

John D'Emilio, *Making Trouble*

Lillian Faderman, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*

plus other selected readings

For more information: call Dr. Haeberle at 934-8674

or e-mail to SHAEBERL@SBS.SBS.UAB.EDU

Women get license to marry

The Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Dee Harrison and Kathy Denise Zenter have so much to do: renting a gown and tux, mailing invitations, writing their wedding vows. They also have to contend with two bills pending in the Legislature that would ban same-sex marriages.

After hearing that there was no Alabama law banning such unions, the women decided to take the plunge. They plucked down $25 at the probate judge's office Wednesday and walked out with the license.

The clerk said she thought Ms. Harrison was a man. Actually, Ms. Harrison used to be. The 46-year-old cab driver had a sex-change operation in 1986.

No wedding date has been set because Ms. Zenter wants her two children from Pennsylvania to attend.

Even if the clerk had realized Ms. Harrison was a woman, it's not clear whether the couple could have been stopped. There apparently is no law currently on the books that bans same-sex marriages in Alabama — a fact the county probate judge was surprised to find out.

"If anybody had asked me about it," Probate Judge Frank Riddick said, "I would have said it was illegal."

The attorney general's office issued a non-binding advisory opinion in 1983 that said it was not legal for same-sex couples to marry, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said.

"The historic status of marriage has been reserved to the union of a man and a woman," Sessions said. "Anything else is a mere association, in my opinion."

The Associated Press

Christina Dee Harrison, left, and Kathy Denise Zentner embrace each other Wednesday. They have obtained a marriage license and plan to wed. Harrison was a man who had a sex-change operation in 1986. According to them, there is no law in Alabama prohibiting same-sex marriages.

State Sen. Bill Armistead, one of the sponsors of legislation that would ban the unions, predicted that the couple would actually help his cause.

"The public will realize there are people out there with such perverted minds they would try to marry a person of the same sex," said Armistead, R-Columbiana.

The clerk who issued the license, Muriel Knowling, said Ms. Harrison looked like a man and filled out the marriage license section reserved for the groom.

Ms. Harrison said she was not trying to hide anything. Her driver's license, she noted, says "F" for female.

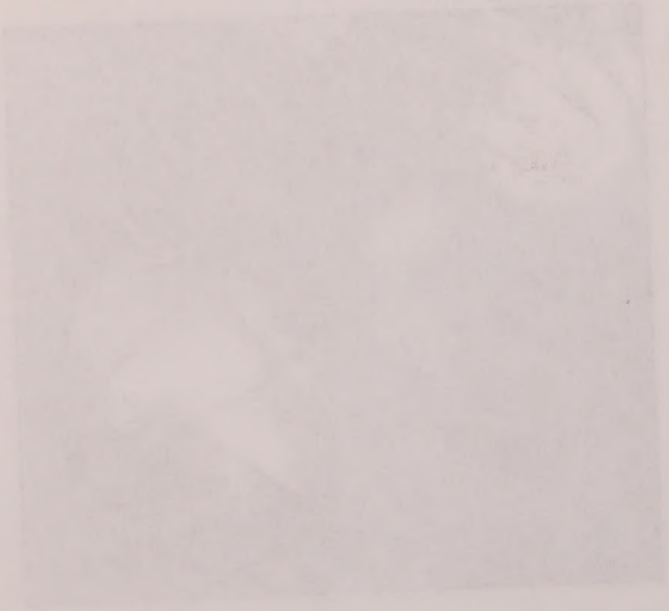
"I think my love for Kathy is significant enough that it should be noticed and sanctified, certified and recognized by the state," Ms. Harrison said.

Before finding out there was no Alabama law banning same-sex weddings, the couple said they were thinking about getting married in Hawaii, which is considering measures that could make it the first state to sanction such weddings.

Several states have had flaps about whether same-sex couples should receive health and insurance benefits, like male-female married couples.

"That's probably why some straight people get married," Ms. Harrison countered. "Quite frankly, I am marrying this woman because I love her and I want the world to know."

Armistead said he would not budge. "God created man and woman," he said. "And I'm not sure we can undo what God did, no matter how much surgery or medicine someone has."



GALAA

Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, Inc

Hello GALAA friends and members:

I recently rented and finally watched the movie "Forrest Gump" a couple of weeks ago. I really enjoyed the movie because, to me, it paralleled many things in my life, and I'm sure certain scenes really hit home with you. But, there was one scene that really blew me away: When Forrest and his true love were walking down that beautiful tree-lined dirt road and those bullies came up and started taunting and throwing rocks, Forrest began to run, very slowly at first, because he had those leg braces on. Then, as he began running harder and harder, and with determination in his eye, the braces broke free from his legs and he took off, going faster and further than even Forrest thought he could go, leaving the bullies in his dust!

When I saw this scene it gave me chill bumps, because the task that we have as gays and lesbians, and gay and lesbian supporters, to achieve equality in Alabama is great. I feel that many of us in our minds, are wearing those braces. And I also feel that, like Forrest, we can break free and do things to help ourselves out of what are bad situations.

Right now in Alabama, there is a law that makes **all** gays and lesbians and most of our single heterosexual friends, criminals. This law, popularly referred to as sodomy laws in many states, is called the Sexual Misconduct Law here in Alabama. This law says that ***"any act of sexual gratification between persons not married to each other involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another"*** is a crime and is punishable by up to one year in jail, plus fines.

When I tell friends about this law I usually get chuckles or stares of disbelief. But, in reality this law is no joke. This law is sometimes used to justify discrimination against lesbians and gays. Two instances come to my mind: 1} In 1992 the Alabama Legislature passed a law to **ban** any university from using tax dollars to support any group that "fosters

or promotes a lifestyle or actions prohibited by the sodomy and sexual misconduct laws" of Alabama; 2} a recent directive given to Alabama teachers by the State Board of Education stated that if any mention is made of homosexuality in the classroom, they must tell the students that **being gay is a crime** in the State of Alabama. I ask you to go back to your own early teens, when many of us were having those feelings of being different and doubting ourselves, and imagine how you would have felt if your English or Math teacher told you that you were a **criminal** under State Law.

These are just some of the reasons that GALAA members voted to do what we could to get this law off the books. We recently wrote a letter to EVERY Alabama State Representative and Senator asking for their help in overturning this law. We received only **one** reply. It is up to us to kill this ridiculous law and the only way possible is to take the State of Alabama to court. Yes, we want to sue to have this law overturned by the courts. There have been successful efforts in other states. A court in Kentucky recently overturned their Sodomy Law. And, in Tennessee, a court case is working its way successfully through the courts. In fact, there are 27 States that do not regulate their consenting citizens in their own bedrooms. We want Alabama to be number 28.

This effort will be an expensive one.

We have already secured a law firm in Birmingham that enthusiastically wants this case and they are offering their services at less than half their normal rate. But, we have told them that if we cannot secure pledges and donations to cover the majority of their fee we will not go forward. We do not want to start what could be a three year court battle that could cost over $20,000, if we cannot see it through to the end. That is why I am writing to you today.

Below is a pledge/donation form. We encourage you to choose one. Make a large donation, if you can, or you can choose to make a monthly pledge. With your generous commitment now, we will make this effort successful for all of us. And just like Forrest, with determination, we can go further than ever, leaving the bullies in our dust! Talk it over with your partner, your spouse, your lover or yourself. But, please let us hear from you soon.

Sincerely:

David W. White, State Coordinator

I want to help GALAA overturn Alabama's Sexual Misconduct Law.

I will help by .....making a donation of $_____ or

.....pledging $_____ a month for ____ months.

Signed_____

Address_____

City-State-Zip_____ Thank You!

Donations to "GALAA" ***are*** tax-deductible and confidential.

GALAA FAMILY VALUES

UBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA
784, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35236-6784 (205) GALAA-86

GALAA

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama

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GALAA MEETINGS

JUNE 17
Birmingham Public Library Auditorium
July 15
Montgomery (place to be announced)
August 19
Birmingham Public Library Auditorium
September 16
Tuscaloosa (place to be announced)

Call (205) **GALAA-86** for more information . Business meetings start at 2PM, General meetings at 4PM.

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tice!!! Page 3
Famiλy Viewpoints and Opinions Page 2
How YOU Can Become A Part of GALAA Page 3

GALAA

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama

The Mission of GALAA is to:

- Empower the Gay and Lesbian citizens of Alabama to claim their inalienable rights as provided in the Constitution of the United States.
- Build a unified, multi-cultural community.
- Inform and educate the Lesbian and Gay community and the general public on issues of concern to the Lesbian and Gay community.
- Address statewide issues of concern to the Gay and Lesbian community.
- Provide a networking system for Lesbian and Gay individuals, supporters, and advocates of Gay and Lesbian concerns.
- Perform community service activities.

Our Immediate Goals are to:

- Develop an active statewide network for organizations and individuals to unify the Gay and Lesbian community.
- Educate the members of our community on the importance of a strong political voice in local and statewide social and political issues.
- Establish area branches to concentrate on local issues of importance to the community with the support of the statewide organization.
- Broaden our membership base.
- Publish a quarterly newsletter to keep members informed of local, statewide, and national issues.
- Provide a medium for individuals and organizations to address important issues.

GALAA's Organizational Structure

GALAA has four Administrative Officers who oversee operations of the organization. We also have Local Area Coordinators who are responsible for coordinating activities of GALAA within regions of the state. This organizational format allows us to concentrate our efforts on concerns at the local and state levels.

Currently, Area Coordinators are serving in the Auburn, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa areas. We are enthusiastically expanding into other regions of Alabama. If you are interested in coordinating efforts in your area, please contact GALAA at (205) 424-1005. You can reach us by mail at P.O. Box 36784, Birmingham, AL 35236-6784. Our E-MAIL address is GALAA1@AOL.COM.

GALAA FAMIλY VALUES

BLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA
84, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35236-6784 (205) GALAA-86

The members of GALAA want to make a positive difference in the lives of Gay and Lesbian Alabamians. We want YOU to become involved with our efforts.

Please take a few moments to complete the information form below. Detach this section and send it along with your membership dues ($10.00) to the address provided.

GET INVOLVED WITH GALAA!

Together we can make a difference!

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

CITY_____

STATE____ZIP_____

PHONE (____)____-_____

MAIL TO:

GALAA
P.O. BOX 36784
BIRMINGHAM, AL 36236-6784

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ALAA

AY AND LESBIAN
NCE OF ALABAMA

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE COORDINATOR

We, at GALAA, feel that the time has come for the Gay and Lesbian citizens of Alabama to work together to end discrimination against us. Our community is made up of many people with diverse interests and backgrounds. However, we share a need to change the course of anti-gay laws, policies, and mindsets in Alabama.

We are proud of our efforts and believe we can tap into the large reserves of power the Gay and Lesbian community has within our state. We are going to make a difference and want you to be a part of it. We need people who are willing to support our organization. Although it has been over a year since we officially began, we are still building from the ground level and hope you choose to support us in the future.

Please believe that you can be an important part of GALAA and the Gay and Lesbian community in Alabama.

Sincerely,

David White

GALAA State Coordinator

Did you know. . .

- GALAA had a full-time lobbyist in Montgomery for the 1994 legislative session? *Crae Pridgen served as lobbyist actively voicing the concerns of the Gay and Lesbian community.*
- GALAA's founder is now working with the Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C.? *Stefan, who founded GALAA in 1993, was hired by NGLTF earlier this year!*
- GALAA holds monthly meetings? *GALAA meets the third Saturday of each month. Meetings are held at various locations across the state.*
- GALAA has reasonable membership dues? *For $10 per year GALAA members receive a monthly mailout keeping them abreast of meeting locations, current issues, etc.*
- YOU can make a difference? *When you become a member of GALAA, you are taking an active role in changing the future for Gays and Lesbians in Alabama!*

GALAA actively opposes discrimination in any form. Our organization does not practice discrimination based upon race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, creed, religion, mental ability, national origin, or social status in any of its operations.

GALAA FAMIλY VALUES

SUMMER 1995

Volume 1 Issue 2

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA
PO BOX 36784, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35236-6784 (205) GALAA-86

TAKE A TRIP WITH US TO THE TROPICS!

Well, guys and gals, summer is just around the corner and GALAA is here to put a little heat in your summer as well as raise a bit of cash so we can continue the fight for gay and lesbian equality here in our fair state. A few highlights:

Get out your tropical shirts and grass skirts and come join us down at *Mikatam* on June 16th for our **TROPICAL BREEZES** dance party! This is a perfect way to kick back, enjoy some tropical breezers, gather 'round the hot tub and dance your way right into summer. (If you're lucky, we might even be able to persuade a couple of island girls or boys to demonstrate their talents!)

Speaking of talents, do you have one that you would love to show off to the whole world and maybe win some cash doing it?

We are still on for our Tuscaloosa and Birmingham editions of the 1995 Alabama Entertainer Contest. Be ready for September 16th at

Continued on Page 3 - see **BREEZES**

GALAA

THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF ALABAMA

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This will be the first time this need will be fulfilled in Alabama. It will cover the entire state plus communities in surrounding states many of us visit.

Free listings will be provided to gay-friendly/gay-owned businesses, professionals, and organizations. Advertising space will also be available at very modest rates. The *RAINBOW PAGES* will be released in November and distributed through many of the listed organizations.

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FAMIλY VIEWPOINTS AND OPINIONS

Got something to tell the family? Express yourself here! Send your viewpoints and opinions to GALAA FAMIλY VALUES - Viewpoints, Post Office Box 36784, Birmingham, Alabama 35236-6784.

Of Gay Pride and Prejudice

If gay prejudice was as bright as our flag, perhaps we wouldn't be so comfortable in displaying our feelings of contempt for others. No, I'm not speaking of prejudice towards gays and lesbians. I mean the prejudice of gays against other gays who do not fit nicely into our inner circles.

In times when we all need to be working together, we instead are fighting amongst ourselves for power, the microphone, for the front of the line.

Our community is no better or worse in this respect than any other community. Our numbers do not afford us the luxury of segmenting ourselves by our gender, the color of our skin, or any of the other many differences we have.

Instead we must strive diligently and with fervor to find a common ground on which we all can build a future that is better than today for the generations to come. It is no longer possible to sit and wait for someone else to do it . . . we have waited long enough.

If we cannot communicate with each other from across our self-created boundaries, how can we expect to open communication channels with those pitted against us who have been taught by both the church and state we are not worthy of the same laws that apply to the general population?

Should I carry a banner declaring my discontent that I am put on the same level as an alcoholic but I sit in fear of alienation when I ask my friends to please refrain from referring to me as 'girl' or 'she'?

If I choose to don a leather vest on occasion, why do my friends withdraw from me but are the first on the stage to tip a man dressed as a woman? Should I shun my friends whose waist lines or age are greater than the accepted stylish norms so I can fit into the popular crowd?

How we draw our circles and how we define who is acceptable to us depends on our own set of values and personalities. On a purely social level, this is not much of a problem since we tend to gravitate to those most like us or those whom we wish to emulate.

Politically speaking in times such as these when every voice counts, we need to learn to draw larger circles and be more tolerant of others who do not share our social morays. Only together with one voice and with moving in the same direction will we succeed. Otherwise, 'they' will win the battle without ever raising their voice since we ourselves will be our own worst enemy and destroy our goals from within.

—J.L. Gregg, Gadsden

Sorry, I've Lost My Appetite!

For some reason the advertising people over at Pizza Hut, one of Pepsi's food subsidiaries, has hired Rush Limbaugh to come onto our TV's as national spokesperson. I guess the folks over at Pepsi & companies don't pay attention to the news.

First there was Snapple. They hired AM radio's favorite hatemonger to sell their drinks. Last summer, the Florida Citrus Commission made a similar blunder and hired Mr. "I love me and to Hell with everyone who doesn't" to push Orange Juice.

Both times there was a loud outcry at the poor public relations being shown by having Rush talk up their products. Both have quietly axed Limbaugh as spokesperson. (Yes, this is the same Florida Citrus Commission who also had Anita Bryant back in the 70's...will they EVER LEARN?!?)

While Pizza Hut is being bombarded with complaints, their sister company KFC is being blasted for allegedly discriminating against people of color and gays.

We should not do business with companies that show such disrespect for minorities. I won't buy Pepsi anyway, but now I also stay away from Pizza Hut, KFC, and Taco Bell (all are Pepsi companies). E-mail complaints can be registered at: "webmaster@PizzaHut.COM" as well. Don't spend gay dollars at places that hate gays!

—Wanda Davies, Bessemer

OF INTEREST FROM ACROSS AMERICA

On May 19, the Rhode Island Senate passed a House-approved bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations. The crowd of supporters who packed the senate gallery erupted with cheers as the final vote tally lit up the board, 26 to 21.

the Senate approval sends the bill to Governor Lincoln Almond's desk for his promised signature. Rhode Island would then be the ninth state to pass civil rights legislation for gay men and lesbians.

Contact Christine Nickerson, RI Alliance for more info at (401) 861-0847.

An excellent article appeared in the USA TODAY (Tuesday, May 9). The nation's largest newspaper ran a cover story in the "Life" section titled *A GAY SON'S SUICIDE, A MOM'S REBIRTH.* As we are more and more often attacked in the media, we should recognize those who publish positive information about lesbians and gays.

USA TODAY (with 5.5 million readers) can be reached via : E-MAIL: usatoday@clark.net
FAX: 703-276-5513 or Letters, USA TODAY, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22229
Request copies of the article via E-MAIL: GALAA1@AOL.COM

GALAA

Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Alabama, Inc

HI GALAA MEMBERS:

I WANTED TO DROP YOU A NOTE ALONG WITH OUR FLAWLESS NEW SECOND NEWSLETTER, TO REMIND YOU ABOUT OUR

"FUN"RAISER,

NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT AT MIKATAM IN BIRMINGHAM. WE ARE CALLING IT NONE OTHER THAN.....

'TROPICAL BREESES'

WILL HAVE SPECIAL WINE COOLERS AND A SPECIAL SHOW. SO GRAB A FRIEND, AND DIG THROUGH YOUR CLOSET AND FIND ONE OF THOSE HAWAIIAN SHIRTS, AND WEAR IT TO

MIKATAM

ON FRIDAY NIGHT, JUNE 16.

ALSO, BECAUSE OF CITY STAGES,

OUR MEETING LOCATION HAS BEEN CHANGED

FROM THE DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY, TO THE AVONDALE LIBRARY AT 509 SOUTH 40TH STREET. THE PHONE NUMBER IS 205-595-5821. WE WILL BE IN THE LARGE MEETING ROOM. HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU SATURDAY, JUNE 17 AT 2:00 PM FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING, AND 4:00 PM FOR THE GENERAL MEETING.

WE WILL BE GETTING UPDATES ON MANY GALAA PROJECTS SO PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND. SEE YOU FRIDAY AND OR SATURDAY!!

SINCERELY:

David W. White

David W. White, State Coordinator

POB 36784, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35236/205-GALAA86

RAINBOW PAGES

—Continued from Page 1

Who will be listed in the *RAINBOW PAGES?* **ANY** business, service provider, or organization that we can find out about that is owned by or caters to or is friendly to the lesbian and gay community.

This will be GALAA's largest project to date. We will be investing a lot of time into this project. The only way it will be successful is with the support of every member of GALAA and the community!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need you to brainstorm. Write down every gay-owned or gay-friendly business, professional, or organization you know of in Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and especially those in Alabama. Get your friends to do this also.

Then send them to our E-mail or Post Office Box (both listed in the box on the bottom right of this page).

TALK IT UP! TALK IT UP!

Tell everyone you know about this project. We really want Alabama to get excited about this valuable resource. The more people who use it, the more valuable it will be. This will also spread the word about the great things that GALAA is doing for Alabama!

—Adam Plier, ***RAINBOW PAGES*** *Editor, (205) 988-5133*

BREEZES

—Continued from Page 1

Michael's in T-town and in the Magic City at *Club 21* on November 18. Due to scheduling conflicts, the contests slated for Mobile and Montgomery have been canceled. But you can stay tuned to FAMIλY VALUES for information about events in those areas in the near future.

Look for upcoming events here in the next edition!

If you have any fun ideas of things we at GALAA can do or if you want more information, call the GALAA line at **(205) GALAA-86.**

—Jarret Mitchell, Fundraising Chair

OF CARS, COLORS, AND COLOGNES... LET THEM KNOW YOU NOTICE

A two-page ad appears in the May issue of *OUT Magazine.* Business reporter Joann Muller says that it is the first time an American carmaker has advertised in the gay media. The ad is for Saturn, the newest division of General Motors.

Saturn also purchased ad time on NBC's "Serving in Silence, the Margarethe Cammermeyer Story" back in February. Why?

Greg Martin, a spokesman for Saturn in Troy, Michigan, said, "As with any other media buy, we recognized this as another opportunity to increase our brand awareness." Additionally, Giorgio's Beverly Hills, a division of Proctor & Gamble Company, has done advertising in several magazines aimed at our market.

But of course, there are those who would boycott businesses who are advertising in "our" magazines. The American Family Association is calling for a boycott of all products manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb, because the company has advertised its Clairol Men's Choice hair products in "*THE ADVOCATE*".

It is advantageous to the lesbian and gay community for us to notice when these people support our publications...even if it is good for their business. Groups like AFA go out of their way to say they oppose those who support us. Isn't it time we started going out of our way to support those who support us and oppose those who oppose us?

When you have an opportunity to thank an advertiser or supporter, take advantage of that opportunity. They are still too few and far between! Send comments to:

John Smale, Chairman
General Motors Corp.
3044 West Grand Blvd.
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Richard L. Gelb, Chairman
Bristol-Myers Squibb
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154

Edwin L. Artzt, CEO
Proctor & Gamble Co.
P. O. Box 599
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

HOW *YOU* CAN JOIN US

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama is a non-profit organization created in 1993 to unite our community. We speak out against bias toward lesbians and gays. We have many projects now under way. We have a place for each member of the lesbian and gay community.

We want you to join us in our efforts. Tax-deductible memberships for 1995 are $10.00. Send your name, address, phone number, membership dues and comments to us at

GALAA
P.O. BOX 36784
BIRMINGHAM, AL
35236-6784

Or for more information call:
(205) GALAA-86
(205) 425-2286

Or you can reach us via the Internet at address
GALAA1@AOL.COM

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM...
JOIN US!

GALAA 1995

If you plan to change your address please notify us so your mail will keep up with you!

POST OFFICE BOX 36784
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
35236-6784

BIRMINGHAM, AL 352
PM
9 JUN
1995

TO:

Covenant MCC ZX
5117 First Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35212

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GALAA

Lawmaker whips UA for allowing conference

State senator says decision to allow 'Showgirls' also shows administrators are not in control.

By RICHARD POWELL
Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA — A state lawmaker who failed to prevent the controversial movie "Showgirls" from being shown at the University of Alabama said that decision and plans to host a gay and bisexual conference there next month show UA administrators are not in control.

University Programs, a student-run organization funded by student fees, voted Monday night to show the movie Jan. 17-20, despite objections from Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, and 43 other legislators.

Armistead has now turned his attention to the Fifth Annual Southeastern Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference set for the Tuscaloosa campus Feb. 16-17, saying it is being illegally underwritten with tax money.

"It tells me that the administration is really not in control of what's going on at the University of Alabama and indicates that the University is allowing their property to be used for things not in their charter, and that is to provide a high-quality education," Armistead said Tuesday from Montgomery.

He was one of 44 legislators who signed a letter asking University of Alabama System officials to not allow the movie to be shown at UA and at UAB, where the movie is being shown this weekend.

Armistead said the decision to show the movie and allowing the conference shows UA administrators "are totally ignoring the wishes of the Legislature and we will look to see if there are other areas where they are being wasteful of the taxpayers' money."

The Legislature reduced higher education funding this year by 7.5 percent.

Armistead said the movie and conference violate a law passed in 1992 prohibiting the use of public facilities to promote lifestyles or activities prohibited by the state's sodomy and sexual misconduct laws.

"The agenda includes how to have safe sex, so I don't know how they're going to talk about having safe sex without talking about how you engage in these acts," Armistead said.

He said the conference has reserved 50 beds in a dormitory, at a cost of $11 per night.

"It's breaking the law to have it on campus, period.

Please see UA Page 2B

UA

Continued from Page 1B

We're certainly underwriting them by letting them stay there for $11 a night," he said.

Armistead also said the agenda he has seen has UA President Roger Sayers as the opening speaker. "I'd say, if he doesn't have anything better to do with his time, then he needs to be looking for something else to do."

Sayers, who returned late Tuesday from several days at a meeting of the NCAA in Dallas, said he has never planned to address the conference.

"I did learn about my supposed speaking to this conference, but I've had a six month prior obligation and I will be in Waco, Texas. No one ever asked me and I certainly didn't agree to speak to this group. That's about the sum and substance of what I know about this conference," Sayers said.

"I will certainly look into that as it relates to the law," Sayers said. He said he already had done that in regards to "Showgirls" and that no University lawyer had told him showing it violated any law.

Sayers said he finds the movie "personally distasteful," but showing it is a First Amendment issue, "and even bad movies fall under its protection." He said he shares the concerns voiced by Armistead and others, "but we are advised that, unless actions are illegal, really, you can't censor students because you disagree with their judgement."

Armistead said legal action will likely be taken if the University does not comply with the 1992 law.

"I have not filed a suit and I'm not saying who will, but I feel a suit will be filed," Armistead said. "There will be many people interested in seeing to it that the law is upheld. How can you flagrantly violate a law on the books and not expect some repercussions?"

He said he does not think a lawsuit will be filed until he gets some reaction from the University.

It was Armistead's concerns about "Showgirls" that prompted University Programs to call a special meeting Monday to reconsider its decision to bring the film to campus.

Brian Jackson, president of University Programs, said the vote to show the movie was six in favor and two abstentions, with no one voting against it.

"It's the issue of the role of the organization," Jackson said. "Our polling data indicates a strong majority of students support the showing of the film," Jackson said. He said the poll was done in October, when UP originally decided to show the film.

The movie is costing UP $825, which Jackson said is less than one quarter of 1 percent of UP's budget.

"The funding for this film is student money. It amounts to less than a nickel a student. It's a student activity fee that funds all the films we bring," Jackson said.

He said all full-time students pay the activity fee.

Jackson said the version to be shown at UA contains scenes edited out of versions available at video rental stores in Tuscaloosa.

Wed. Jan 10, 1996

Jan. 15, 1996

Letters policy

The Tuscaloosa News welcomes our readers' opinions on issues of public concern.

Letters must be signed and include full address and a daytime phone number for verification.

Names and hometowns of letter writers will be included for publication, without exception. Letters, which are routinely edited and often condensed, should be limited to 250 words. We don't publish poetry or copies of letters sent elsewhere, and generally don't publish letters concerning consumer complaints.

Letters should be mailed to Letters to the Editor, The Tuscaloosa News, PO Box 20587, Tuscaloosa AL 35402-0587.

Or, for your convenience, you can fax your letters (including phone number and address) to Ken Stickney, Editorial Page Editor. The News' fax number is 205-349-0802.

moral man and woman who read it. This unsavory piece was, in fact, an insult to intelligent people who are capable of reading between the lines. There just had to be, for example, an ulterior motive for putting out this propaganda.

To ridicule a man for taking a stand against what is immoral is outrageous. Unusual, too, in that the usual is to ridicule and to brand as contemptible men's vices. What about the other 40-plus legislators who agree with Armistead? Shouldn't this fact have been mentioned?

Of course, the University cannot control the morals of the students. The University can, however, make available to them a learning environment that promotes what is healthy and sound; what is virtuous and worthwhile. All teaching and viewpoints, moreover, should be in accordance with like principles and standards.

Are we all supposed to be ostriches? Too many already have kept their heads in the sand while joints on the Strip thrive, while other similar places prey on our young, while rapes occur on and near the campus.

Any agenda that bills "Showgirls" and Gay/Lesbian Conferences is the wrong agenda for a public (or private) institution of higher learning. To list them under the guise of education is absurd. If this, indeed, is the University's definition of exposing students to different viewpoints, someone has certainly missed the point.

I do not know Armistead personally, but I like his stand and his boldness in declaring it. Our young people deserve the Armisteads, et al, who will speak out for what is beneficial to them. They, too, know that a moral man stands for what is moral.

F.H. LITTLE
Tuscaloosa

A 'slap in the face'

Dear Editor: The editorial ("Sin City?"), which appeared in the Jan. 11 edition of The Tuscaloosa News, was a slap in the face to every

Tues Jan 16, 1996

'Showgirls' draws 1,000 for UAB showing

The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM — More than 1,000 people showed up to see the movie "Showgirls" at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, with the controversy about the movie drawing some of the viewers.

Some viewers came because of the controversy surrounding the movie.

Scott Gaines, a recent UAB graduate, said he was attracted by the criticism the film generated from Gov. Fob James and members of the Alabama Legislature and Birmingham City Council.

"They tried to tell us we couldn't show it at UAB. That makes you wonder what the big deal is and makes you want to go to see it. We see and talk about worse than that in class," Gaines said at a Sunday showing.

The NC-17 movie was shown at UAB throughout the weekend as part of the campus film series. No commercial theaters in the Birmingham area showed the movie when it was released last year.

More than 40 legislators had signed a petition urging that the film not be shown. State Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, organized the petition, saying he was concerned the movie's rape scene would inspire someone to commit a crime.

Nan Thrasher watched the movie with her husband, Tommy, and said it "was no worse than 'Basic Instinct.'"

She questioned why politicians got so upset about it showing on a state university campus.

"Surely there are a lot more important things that the Legislature and the City Council need to be getting worked up about than this movie," she said.

The movie itself did not generate much excitement for the crowd at the 5:30 p.m. showing. The crowd applauded the Bugs Bunny movie that preceded the film, but not the film.

"I was kind of anxious for it to end," UAB graduate David Schilleci said.

The Associated Press

Scott Gaines, a recent graudate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, shows identification to buy a ticket to see "Showgirls" Sunday.

R Jan 18, 1996

'SHOWGIRLS' COMES TO UA

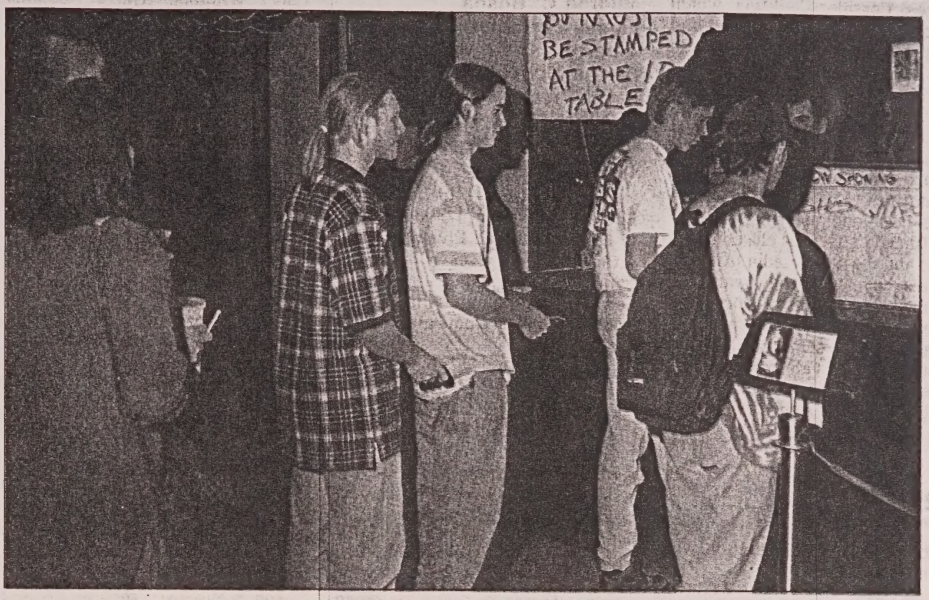
Crowd urns out or movie

RICHARD POWELL
aff Writer

TUSCALOOSA — Curiosity and e well publicized moral outrage some public officials brought t more than 250 people Wednesy night for the first showing of howgirls" on the University of abama campus.

And, despite similar protests by state senator over plans for a nference of gays, lesbians and sexuals on the UA campus next onth, President Roger Sayers id Wednesday he plans to allow e gathering.

There were no protesters as peoe lined up outside Ferguson 1 heer for the first of four screenings the movie criticized by Gov. Fob mes as "filth" and "trash." A okesman for James said Tuesday he had not seen the film.



Staff/Jason Harris

University of Alabama students line up at the Ferguson Center on the UA campus Wednesday night to purchase tickets to see "Showgirls."

More than 40 legislators had signed a petition urging that the film not be shown. State Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, organized the petition, saying he was concerned the movie's rape scene would inspire someone to commit a crime.

"I just wanted to see what all the excitement is about, because

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MOVIE

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there's been such a ruckus about it," said Truitt Ellis of Columbus, Miss.

"I want to see what all the big brouhaha is about," said Ashby Smith of Gadsden.

Tasha Jones, a student from New York, said concerns of elected officials just made her more interested in seeing the NC-17 rated movie.

"I wanted to see it when it came out, but it wasn't shown in Tuscaloosa," she said.

"Just the publicity. I heard it's a lousy movie," said Robert Graham of Tuscaloosa.

"Just wondering what all the controversy is about, and I didn't have class tonight," said Mike Wallace, a UA student from Georgia.

Lori Ditoro of Tuscaloosa, a UA graduate, said curiosity brought her out as well.

"If something is bad enough to be banned in the entire state, you're curious to see why," she said.

"Showgirls" was brought to campus by University Programs, a student-run organization that operates off student fees.

UP president Brian Jackson said he was not surprised there were no protesters after none showed up at UAB, where about 1,000 people viewed the movie last week. UP reconsidered showing the movie here after the protests by James and the petition by the legislators, but voted to go ahead.

"Most of the calls and letters we were getting were from people not associated with the University and living outside West Alabama," Jackson said. "The concerns of the people of the community were never as great as the concerns expressed by the people outside the community."

He said he received one letter from a local minister opposed to the movie, which will be shown through Saturday.

Armistead, who said he had not seen the movie, has threatened to sue the University if it allows the Annual Southeastern Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference on Feb. 16-17. He claims it violates a 1992 law prohibiting the use of public facilities to promote activities that violate state sodomy laws.

"The occurrence of the GLBA conference does not violate a state law or statute," Sayers said Wednesday. "In fact, to prevent such a conference would be a violation of First Amendment rights. We will not permit any conference program elements that do break the law or violate a state statute, and we have so advised the conference organizers."

Claire Austin, a spokeswoman for Attorney General Jeff Sessions, said two attorneys in the office are researching state law.

"The Attorney General's office is presently researching what the law is and how it can be applied to the statute," she said.

Sessions' meeting reflects tension over UA gay conference

By DANA BEYERLE
Montgomery Bureau

MONTGOMERY — Attorney General Jeff Sessions is to meet with University of Alabama officials today about a homosexual organization's conference on campus next month which Gov. Fob James opposes.

A morning meeting was planned at the Attorney General's Office in Montgomery. Sessions spokeswoman Claire Austin said Tuesday that University officials asked for the meeting concerning the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance's request to hold a conference on homosexual issues Feb. 16-17.

"There's been a lot of discussion on this the last two weeks," Austin said. "We've been looking at the law and looking at the situation at other universities in the state, the funding process of numerous organizations."

The University-chartered organization receives student funding but James and a state senator believe it's a violation of state law to provide university help to organizations supporting homosexuality.

UA spokesman Keith Ayers characterized the meeting as a "informational session" and not a strategy meeting on how to defeat the organization's goals.

"We basically want to give the information about the conference, brief them on the student governance process, how student groups develop, are governed and carry out their activity," Ayers said.

He said the GLBA receives $3,500 a year, an amount determined by the "student oversight structure that administers student organizations."

"It's from student activity fees, a checkoff students pay to operate their organizations," Ayers said. "Students determine the funding."

James' spokesman Alfred Sawyer's characterization of the meeting was diffent from the University's.

"The attorney general is seeing whether something can be done," Sawyer said. "What they might be able to get them on, is they give money to this organization but they don't give money to the Christian Coalition or the Republican Party."

Austin said Sessions has not determined whether the group can continue to receive University support.

Sawyer said James believes the University will be breaking a recent state law if it allows the conference. "He felt he had to go on record opposing University facilities being used for this sort of thing," Sawyer said.

James' said the "Southeast Lesbian,

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Wed. Jan 24, 1996

SESSIONS

Continued from Page 1A

Gay and Bisexual College Conference" will feature topics dealing with the homosexual lifestyle, including a "coming out" workshop, a "drag" workshop and a session on the "leather lifestyle."

He also said in a news release that the conference will include a "Goddess Ritual Workshop" with instructions how to practsice Wicca, "a form of witchcraft."

An attempt to reach a spokesperson for the organization was unsuccessful.

James said Alabama law prohibits the expenditure of public funds by any college or university to "directly or indirectly sanction, recognize or support" actions or lifestyles prohibited by the sodomy or sexual misconduct laws.

"Therefore, this sort of event has no place on the campus of a taxpayer-funded university," James said. "A gathering of this kind promotes values that are in direct contradiction to those held by the vast majority of Alabamians, and is in fact against state law."

James said some participants will be staying in University dormitories at a subsidized rate. Several professors and graduate students are scheduled to speak, he said.

The University's news bureau released a statement by student life director Kathleen Randall:

"The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance at the University of Alabama made application and went through appropriate steps to register the conference and reserve conference housing. University officials continue to review statutes, but at this time have no reason to believe that this group is in violation of state law."

State Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, opposes the use of school property for the conference and may seek punitive budget measures if the school doesn't do something.

"If they were in violation of the law they will preclude the conference taking place," said Armistead, who also opposed the recent showing of the nude-filled movie, "Showgirls," at the university.

"We will look at our options," Armistead said. "Private attorneys are looking at filing suit."

Martin McCaffery, vice president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama, said that's fine. The ACLU has challenged the state law which James cited in a case involving the University of South Alabama.

"We would be happy to challenge them again if they try it again," McCaffery said.

McCaffery said the organization is protected by free speech and equal protection clauses of the Constitution. Furthermore, he said, since no one knows what anyone is going to say at the conference, to try to cut off funding or block the conference would be an attempt to censor free speech.

"These groups have been chartered for several years now and we haven't had any problems with the organizations so why is the governor and every other politician interested in telling people what they can say or can't say?" McCaffery said.

"The governor is using his power of the state to make his viewpoint stronger than someone else's," he said.

Dieting ... Thing of the past for millions?

Sessions wants Sayers to stop gay conference

By DANA BEYERLE
Montgomery Bureau

MONTGOMERY — Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Wednesday he will ask University of Alabama President Roger Sayers to stop a conference on homosexual issues to be held on campus next month.

Sessions met with four University officials in Montgomery to discuss the Southeast Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference scheduled Feb. 16-17 in Tuscaloosa.

"I expressed to them my opposition to the conference," Sessions said. "We'll be sending a letter probably today to Dr. Sayers making our recommendation that he stop that conference."

University officials did not comment on Sessions' intentions.

The conference will feature topics on the homosexual

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Thursday Jan 25, 1996

SESSIONS

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lifestyle, according to Gov. Fob James' office. James has publicly opposed the conference.

He's not the only one. State Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, said some groups may file suit to stop the conference. The Civil Liberties Union said it would fight any such attempts.

Sessions said if the conference proceeds, the University could be in violation of a state law that prohibits a state agency from spending money or allowing its facilities to be used to promote actions which would violate the state's sodomy and sexual misconduct laws.

"The organization (being what it is), it's difficult for me to see how they can (avoid violating the law)," Sessions said. "That's why the only way to be sure to comply with the law is not hold the conference."

Sayers could not be reached for comment but University of Alabama attorney Glenn Powell said that state laws won't be broken on campus.

"I've not been told there won't be a conference," Powell said. "The University would have moved to stop something that is illegal."

Sessions said Alabama officials had an opinion about the conference.

"I know the University made it clear, and they were sincere in this, they would want to make sure the law is complied with and that they also wish this conference weren't being held," Sessions said.

Powell would not say whether the University would monitor the conference which James said would feature a "coming out" workshop, a "drag" workshop and a session on "leather lifestyle," and a witchcraft workshop.

Conference coordinators say no laws will be broken, and the focus will be on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Powell, Sayers' executive assistant Culpepper Clark, student life director Kathleen Randall and school lawyer Ken Goodwin met with Sessions in Montgomery on Wednesday.

Powell said school officials told Sessions that the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance is a University-sanctioned student organization.

The GLBA, which is sponsoring the conference, is supported by $3,500 a year in student fees. Powell said the GLBA met the requirements to use school facilities.

Sessions said he told University officials the best opportunity they had to stop the conference was when the organization applied to use school facilities.

He said his office had received complaints about the conference which he cannot halt.

"I don't know we have an authority to order them to stop it," Sessions said.

He said it's up to the school to comply with the law prohibiting violation of the sodomy laws.

"This is not a criminal statute, it provides no enforcement mechanism," Sessions said. "It is a directive by the Legislature to state agencies concerning how they can spend money and how they can use their facilities.

"It's the University and their board that has the obligation to comply with the legislative directive," Sessions said.

Sessions said the University would face serious legal hurdles trying to halt the conference. "It's a difficult matter of constitutional law," Sessions said.

He said he loves the University, his alma mater.

"I'm also aware universities drift off to rarified atmosphere and lose contact with the world of which they're a part," he said. "I don't think this is the kind of behavior people want promoted on university campuses in this state nor their facilities used for that."

TR Jan 25, 1996

Reaction to conference surprises gay, lesbian group

By RICHARD POWELL
Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA — An organizer of a gay, lesbian and bisexual conference planned for the University of Alabama next month said the group never expected the event to become statewide news.

But that is exactly what has happened since a state senator and Attorney General Jeff Sessions learned of the conference and charged it violates a state law against using public facilities to promote lifestyles or activities that violate state sodomy laws.

Sessions said Wednesday he will ask UA President Roger Sayers not to allow The Fifth Annual Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference of the Southeastern United States on the campus Feb. 16-17.

"We expected that some people would not appreciate the content of our conference, but we never expected people to react and make some kind of statewide issue of our small conference," said Cathy Wessell, a member of the University's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance, a coordinator of the conference and graduate student at the University.

She said the conference, with no more than 300 expected to attend, is nothing more than an effort to "discuss diversity, decrease prejudice and bigotry and to allow for an arena for gay and lesbian people to get together and freely exchange ideas and just talk."

Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, has said he believes it would violate the 1992 law for the group to have a workshop on safe sex. He's also noted that the agenda includes workshops on goddess rituals and coming out.

"The workshop is not about having safe sex, it's about the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and the information they are going to give is the information they would give anywhere," Wessell said. "That's a far cry from promoting any sexual practices."

An agenda for the conference states the workshop will be conducted by a certified Red Cross HIV/AIDS instructor. Annabel Stephens, associate professor in library studies and faculty adviser to the GLBA, said the instructor will "talk about it just like they do to heterosexuals, use condoms. I don't think they're going to go out and say you do this and you do that."

Wessell said as of Wednesday, no speaker had been confirmed for the goddess ritual workshop. She said it would perhaps involve someone talking about how they have searched for images of God that are female, rather than recruiting people to a belief.

Wessell said the coming out workshop discusses the theory of coming out as a developmental process.

"This would be identifying things that exist, telling people what kind of stages have been identified by professionals," she said.

BG Jan 26, 1996

Gay meet draws new attacks

By DANA BEYERLE
Montgomery Bureau

AG also angry over policy limiting military recruiting

MONTGOMERY — Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Thursday threatened to seek an injunction against the University of Alabama if it does not cancel a gay-lesbian-bisexual student conference on campus next month.

Sessions, a Republican U.S. Senate candidate, also criticized the University for excluding the military from recruiting lawyers at its law school because of the military's stand on homosexuals.

The threat of legal action tightened the screws on the University in the state's efforts to force it to cancel the Southeast Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance on Feb. 16-17

"It does appear to be in clear violation of state statute," Sessions told reporters.

Sessions said he told UA President Roger Sayers if the conference isn't blocked he "certainly will" seek an injunction.

"I'm hopeful if the administration doesn't act, the Board of Trustees will," Sessions said.

He said Sayers told him the matter was a "heavy burden" because of First Amendment, prior restraint and censorship considerations.

"My response is we're reviewing his letter right now and I don't have further response at this time," Sayers told the New York Times Regional Newspapers Thursday afternoon.

The GLBA receives student funding but Gov. Fob James and Sessions believe it's a violation of state law for the University to help organizations supporting

Please see SESSIONS Page 8A

The Associated Press

Attorney General Jeff Sessions gestures during a press conference about a planned gay conference.

SESSIONS

Continued from Page 1A

homosexuality.

The organization gets $3,500 a year, an amount determined by a student committee that administers student organizations.

James said the conference will feature topics dealing with the homosexual lifestyle, including a "coming out" workshop, a "drag" workshop and a session on the "leather lifestyle."

Sessions said Alabama law prohibits spending public funds by any college or university to "directly or indirectly sanction, recognize or support" actions or lifestyles prohibited by the sodomy or sexual misconduct laws.

In a related topic, Sessions blasted the UA Law School over its policy of excluding the military from recruiting lawyers on campus.

"Blocking military recruiters from the campus for any reason is outrageous, but to do so because the Law School thinks the military's already liberal policy on homosexuals is not liberal enough is shocking and unbelievable," Sessions said.

He said if former Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Colin Powell wanted to recruit officers at the University's law school, he couldn't because the accrediting agency prohibits it due to the military's homosexual stand.

Sessions blamed the University for following the policy. "I don't know what it is, political correctness run amok or maybe it's an avant-garde mentality," Sessions said. "I think that is outrageous and an unacceptable policy for the University," he said.

"We would not have a rule of law in this country if millions of Americans had not risked their lives while serving in the armed forces to preserve our freedom," Sessions said. "For a law school to treat them as anything less than first-class citizens is a disgrace."

Sessions said he ultimately holds Sayers and the Board of Trustees responsible for the policy, which a new state law could change.

Sayers said the military can recruit lawyers at the ROTC center on campus.

The law school faculty voted in 1992 in favor of allowing the military to interview at the law school but the Association of American Law Schools, the University law school's accrediting agency, threatened to revoke the school's accreditation due to the military's hiring practices, Sayers said.

"In order for the law school to keep its accreditation or status with that organization, the military kept interviewing law students but in the ROTC building on campus a few blocks" away from the law school, Sayers said.

The military, until recently, has barred known homosexuals from service but now it has a "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Sessions said national law school accrediting agencies have pushed for "policies like these throughout the country."

Sen. Hinton Mitchem, D-Albertville, introduced a bill Wednesday to force the University to provide the military "reasonable access" to public institutions for recruiting purposes.

"I can't believe the school won't allow military recruiters," said Mitchem.

A ups funding for gay meeting

By RICHARD POWELL
Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA — The University of Alabama's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance asked the school's Council of Presidents for $2,000 Thursday to help it put on a conference on campus next month, but came away with only $500.

Lee Garrison, president of the Interfraternity Council and a member of the Council of Presidents, said on Friday that the Council of Presidents approved an lesser amount of the approval was unanimous by the 15 to 20 council members present.

"We questioned them about where the money was going to go and they named a few things, but they couldn't come up with $2,000 worth of reasons for the money. So, $500 was decided on by all the members," Garrison said.

The Council of Presidents, made up of the heads of campus-wide student organizations, took over some allocation of student fees after the SGA was disbanded three years ago.

"We've already given them $3,500 this year in student fees, and then they came in last night wanting more money for this thing," Garrison said.

David Donaldson, GLBA member and a coordinator for the conference, said the money was needed to cover some immediate expenses.

"A lot of our budget is anticipated from registration (fees) and until registration is in, we need some get-by money," Donaldson said.

He said the GLBA is appreciative of the money it got from the council. "We don't feel snubbed."

Although Garrison voted to give the group $500 in student fees, he said he believes the conference is inappropriate.

"It seems like it would be supporting homosexuality, and I don't think the University needs to be getting involved in something like that," Garrison said.

The GLBA has brought fire on UA administrators from Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The group

The Council of Presidents approved an additional $500 for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance conference.

Sat. Jan 27 1996

GAY

Continued from Page 1A

has received approval to host the Fifth Annual Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference of the Southeastern United States on campus Feb. 16-17.

Sessions believes the conference would violate a law prohibiting state universities from providing public funds to a group that promotes the violation of sodomy and sexual misconduct laws. He notes the agenda includes workshops on "coming out" and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Thursday, Sessions threatened to take legal action to prevent the conference if the University did not shut off the plans. UA President Roger Sayers has said he believes it would violate the GLBA's constitutional rights to free speech to prohibit the gathering.

Friday, UA spokesman Keith Ayers said the administration intends to allow the conference to go on.

"As of today there is no change in the status of the conference, but the matter remains under review," Ayers said.

Donaldson said UA officials have not privately asked his group to voluntarily cancel the conference.

"To this point, the University has been supportive and we have not received any word to lead us to believe they have changed their position," Donaldson said.

Cathy Wessell, another GLBA member coordinating the conference, said earlier this week up to 300 people may attend the conference.

Donaldson said registration forms went out only last week and "unofficial confirmation" has come back from several groups around the region.

"We've had a lot of calls, a lot of e-mail from groups and individuals from around the Southeast and as far up the East Coast as Maryland and Delaware. We do have a group coming in from Delaware," he said.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

Wed. Jan 31, 1996

Sessions plans to appeal ruling on gay groups

By DANA BEYERLE
Montgomery Bureau

HOOVER — Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he plans to appeal a federal judge's ruling that overturned a 1992 law aimed at preventing homosexual groups from receiving taxpayer funds.

But he said he probably can't halt a homosexual issues conference scheduled on the University of Alabama campus next month.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson on Monday ruled unconstitutional the 1992 law which prohibited the use of state facilities to support groups which foster or promote homosexual lifestyles or actions prohibited by the sodomy or sexual misconduct laws of Alabama. State law prohibits "deviate sexual intercourse," consensual or otherwise, between unmarried or married persons.

"We expect we will appeal the ruling of Judge Thompson," said Sessions. "His ruling complicates the ability of the state to enforce that law in regards to the conference in Tuscaloosa."

Sessions last week asked UA President Roger Sayers to halt the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance's Feb. 16-17 "Southeast Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference," citing his belief it would break the law.

Sessions, who plans to run for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, said if Sayers didn't halt it, he would seek an injunction. Prior to Thompson's ruling, University System Chancellor Philip Austin said neither he nor Sayers would try to halt the conference because they did not believe the event would be breaking the law.

The GLBA, a University-sanctioned group, gets $3,500 from students.

Sessions said he now plans to provide help to University groups and students who belong to other organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and even political groups on how to seek University support for their activities.

"Organizations much larger and more significant have been denied money," Sessions said. He said it's inconceivable to grant homosexual groups state support yet deny it to religious or political groups.

Gov. Fob James and state Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, also have cited the law.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego

The Tuscaloos

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

DEADLINE UPDATE

Commissioners asked to fight gay meeting

■ **TUSCALOOSA** — Each member of the Tuscaloosa County Commission said he adamantly opposes the gay/lesbian conference this month at the University of Alabama.

However, the commission on Wednesday refused the request of a county pastor to take a public stand as a body against the meeting that state officials have failed to block.

Local

The Rev. Terrell Jones, pastor of Phillips Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, asked the commission Wednesday to go on record opposing the Southeast Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference Feb. 16-17 at UA.

"I think it comes a time when we have to make a stand against certain things," Jones told the commission. "If you as our elected delegates say you're against it, that will encourage others to take a stand."

Commission Chairman Hardy McCollum told Jones it would be inappropriate and unnecessary for the commission to take a stand, especially after a federal judge ruled that blocking the conference would be unconstitutional.

"We carry no weight," he said. "I personally feel very strongly against it. But whether we are opposed to it is moot."

"This is an example of how the moral fiber of this country is decaying," said commissioner Mike Richardson. "There was a time where this wouldn't have even come up. We have become so liberal, allowing everybody to do their own thing. I'm against it, but there's nothing we can do."

Holy alliance sought to fight gay meeting

Dear Editor: I would like to take this opportunity to urge fellow Christians, believers, anyone who considers themselves a member of the family of God to call or write the president's office at the University of Alabama and voice your opposition to the Fifth Annual Gay/Lesbian Conference scheduled to take place on the campus of the University of Alabama in February. Also I would ask you to contact the members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama.

The attorney general of Alabama, Jeff Sessions, has said that the University of Alabama will clearly be in violation of the sodomy laws of Alabama. Sessions has been in contact with the University officials and the University's attorneys and he has said that he will get an injunction against the University to stop this conference if the University does not cancel the conference. The University is helping fund this conference with our tax dollars but has refused to fund any Christian organization. The University has given the Gay/Lesbian Alliance Organization $4,000 for this year to help fund this conference and the University is offering rooms at $11 per night for those coming in from out of town to attend this conference. Also a portion of student's activities fees will help fund the conference. If you would like more information, contact Bill Armistead's office in Montgomery and his secretary will send you the information you need. Or contact Hank Irwing at WDJC in Birmingham.

Sessions

Christian pastors should speak out and let their voices be heard. This is a very important issue and we cannot sit by and watch this kind of ungodly lifestyle suck in more of our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. President Sayers office telephone number is 348-5100. That office can also give you the names and addresses of the members of the board of trustees..

BECKY SNOW
Northport

Reader: It's not a sin

Dear Editor: I have been reading a lot lately about the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference which is scheduled to be conducted at the University of Alabama this coming February. I have yet to read the whole story about the conference and have yet to read about those who truly deserve credit for bringing this conference to the University.

Of all the coverage of this conference I have read, Ken Stickney's column in Sunday's paper was the best. Although I agree with his conclusions about the unconstitutionality of the law Alabama politicians have passed and are trying to use against the citizens involved in hosting this conference, I strongly disagree with his erroneous assumption that homosexuality is a sin.

Letters policy

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Reader says there are numerous stories of same sex couples in the Bible.

Homosexuality is a state of being. When the National Council of Churches tried to find Bible scholars to debate the issue of homosexuality they ran into a problem. They could not find a Bible scholar who didn't get his degree out of a cracker jack box who was willing to say that the Bible condemns homosexuality. The word "homosexual" first appeared in an English translation of the Bible when in 1952, when the Revised Standard Version was published. Furthermore, the Greek words mistranslated in modern times as "homosexual" are actually references to prostitutes and wishy-washy people. There are numerous stories of same sex couples in the Bible that are beautifully written and show no signs of condemnation. Read I and II Samuel about Jonathan and David. It is clear that they were involved in a homosexual love affair. There are numerous other examples that space will not allow.

Will Alabama politicians never learn?
Do you put your trust in God or Fob?

MARK WILSON
Tuscaloosa

If pink triangles, then ... ?

Dear Editor: This is in response to the Jan. 31 letter to the editor by Paul E. Robertson, suggesting pink triangles be worn by homosexuals.

I suppose he was also in full support of people wearing yellow stars.

NANCY A. DOUCETTE
Northport

Feb. 2, 1996 Fri

the New Testament. Romans 1:24, 26 and 27 references this type of activity, with the result being " ... receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error."

Wilson says that the term homosexual first appeared in an English translation of the Bible in 1952. I do not see the relevance of that point. These verses do not use the term homosexual, but it is obvious that they are referring to homosexual activity, i.e., a male lies with a male.

JOSEPH J. CHYTIL
Tuscaloosa

'Keep marriage bed pure'

Dear Editor: This is in response to Mark Wilson's letter on Feb. 2. Wilson wrote that David and Jonathan had a homosexual relationship in I and II Samuel. He is wrong about that. Yes, David and Jonathan did love each other deeply, but it was not homosexual.

David was married to Jonathan's sister (I Samuel 18:27). At Jonathan's death David cried, "I grieve for you Jonathan my brother." (II Samuel 1:26) David also committed adultery with Bathsheba and God punished David. Surely God would have punished all sexual immorality.

God also destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because men were sleeping with men (Genesis 19).

In Hebrews 13:4 it says, "marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

God says that any sex outside the bond of marriage is sin. God's way is the best way for us to live. For in this way we would not have AIDS, or many unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases would become history.

Wilson needs to read all of his Bible, for in it he would find life-changing truths.

R.G. FLEMING
Tuscaloosa

Reader: The Bible is clear

Dear Editor: Our society is in very poor health if we even suggest the Bible supports homosexuality. I am surprised that anyone could conclude from the written Word that homosexuality is acceptable. It does not matter what some council or scholar says, but it does matter what the Bible says on this subject. It has total authority on all issues.

The Bible is very clear on homosexuality. "Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexual, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkard, nor reviler, nor swindlers shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

Clearly, the Bible condemns homosexuality. It is a most unnatural and sinful act.

STEVE DAVIS
Tuscaloosa

Reader: Read Bible closer

Dear Editor: I am compelled to respond to Mark Wilson's claim in his letter to The Tuscaloosa News that the Bible does not consider homosexuality a sin. Quoting from the New American Standard Bible translation, Leviticus 18:22 states "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination." What is the punishment for such activity? Leviticus 20:13 states "If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them."

God's view of this activity does not change in

Wed. Feb. 7, 1996

C.W
Feb 7, 1996

CRIMSON WHITE (UA Student Newspaper)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Complete story needs to be told

In all the newspaper articles, news segments and other places that I have been hearing about the wonderful conference that is scheduled to be held at the University in February on issues of diversity in sexual orientation, I have yet to hear the whole story and yet to hear credit given where credit is due. It is largely due to the wise leadership of Louis Cooper, last year's GLBA president, that this much-needed conference will be coming to Tuscaloosa at all, a fact not brought out in any coverage familiar to me. Several of those who are being quoted about this conference were against hosting it until they were voted down. They are to be commended for pitching in to help and going along with the majority of the group.

The controversy over this conference is an embarrassment to the State of Alabama, very reminiscent of George Wallace's infamous stand for segregation at the University and the oppression of black people that has given Alabama such a negative image on human rights issues. Judging from the attitudes and actions of Fob James and Jeff Sessions with regard to this conference, it appears that Alabama politicians have a hard time learning from the mistakes of the past. Considering the fact that Jeff Sessions is a bar association attorney, he should have known all along that the Facilities Use Act he has quoted as a reason that this conference is illegal was unconstitutional. It appears to me that the governor and attorney general are resorting to the sleaziest kind of politics by playing on people's prejudices for political gain, while treating the Constitution as if it were a scrap of paper to be thrown down and trampled on.

plan of various sexual orientations at The Fifth Annual Southeastern Lesbian Gay and Bisexual College Conference.

Mark Wilson,
Tuscaloosa

Thirdly and finally, all Americans everywhere should cherish the freedom of ALL Americans, no matter how different we are from one another. Our diversity is our strength. Whenever any person's freedom is at risk all Americans should let out a loud cry of protest. The fact that this is not the case is one of the most tragic aspects of the human condition in America today. Until ALL Americans are truly FREE no one is safe. Until what should be is we will all suffer. I commend the administration of the University for standing up for what is right in the face of the bleak political climate that overshadows this state these days. And I encourage every University student to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn more about God's great and diverse

Bring back government

I saw the Council of Presidents come of age as a legislative body. Since the Council was given powers to distribute funds after the SGA was disbanded some three years ago it has shown questionable judgment and ability in functioning as a legislative body. For the most part the Council has been nothing but a rubber stamp for organizations and individuals to receive funds from for their various endeavors. I personally watched as we gave funds to a graduate student who had no idea when she was going on a research trip or even if her proposed destination was equipped to handle her research request, but we saw fit to endow this person with the full amount allowable for distribution to an individual. I was appalled with our conduct as a body and was quite disillusioned with the process.

I knew we needed a body to perform these duties, and I was hopeful what I had just joined by virtue of my election to the presidency of the Residence Hall Association was the answer to the need I recognized. You see, at the time I was a leading proponent of the return of an SGA who grew weary of the bogged down process of trying to restore the organization. The red tape had driven me away, realizing that a body such as the Council could work if it were to perform its duties in a thoughtful and prudent manner. Thursday night the council took its first step toward being that body when it began deliberations on the financial resolution put before it by the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance. In what looked to be the bleakest moment in Council history, a complete deadlock, Scott Powell suggested a recess to let the parties involved in the decision process confer and negotiate an amicable settlement.

After several failed attempts to fund the bill, I prevailed upon the chair to reconsider Powell's suggestion for a recess and when the majority of those present showed support for a brief recess the chair showed good judgment in allowing a five minute break for us to discuss the matter without the cumbersome rules of order which were only hindering the process. It was in this recess that the group came to life, showing the principles of responsible governance — the ability to thoughtfully deliberate and the sense to compromise. I commend those who stood with us last Thursday night to make a decision on a volatile and dangerous topic.

Where the Council goes from here is entirely up to those people who sit on the Council, but if last Thursday night was any indication of the potential this body has it would be a shame to put an end to it now, when it has finally proved that it can effectively operate. If we continue to mature as a body I would suggest that any form of government that is brought back to this University should include a strong Council of Presidents.

Last Thursday night, we graduated from being the easiest score in town to being the best form of government this campus has seen in decades. I challenge my fellow Council members to live up this now, and show the same diligence every time we meet. It should not take controversy for us to operate the way we were intended.

Chris Garland,
President of the Residence Hall Association

CRIMSON WHITE
Feb 7, 1996
Wed.

Distorted thinking brings misinterpretation of Bible

Dear Editor: As so often the case, Christians are ridiculed and the Bible is "trashed," but since one letter writer (The Tuscaloosa News, Feb. 2) has invoked the Bible as his "authority" for the practice of homosexuality "as a state of being" this reply is absolutely necessary.

Homosexuality is a sad and perverted state of being, but it is agreed that it is a state of being. This state of being is what the Bible calls an abomination (Leviticus 18:22). It must be pointed out that the word "homosexual" is not used in this text. However, there is no doubt about what God's Word is saying.

The reference to David and Jonathan having a homosexual relationship is another feeble attempt to give acceptance to the writer's distorted concept of homosexuality. It is a prime example of distorted thinking giving a distorted interpretation of Scripture.

It should not be difficult, even to a casual reader with a carnal mind, to interpret correctly Paul's meaning in Romans 1:26-27. Again, there is no doubt Paul is referring to lesbianism and homosexuality.

God's Word does not condone the immoral and degrading practice of homosexuality. Any attempt to do so is a demonstration of one's ignorance of God's Word.

Homosexuality is not a political right or "an alternative lifestyle" to be equated with morality and decency.

Homosexuality may be constitutionally right before judges of men, but it is Scripturally wrong before the eternal God who will judge the works of mankind.

JAMES C. WALKER
Tuscaloosa

David, Jonathan: friends

Dear Editor: This is in response to the Feb. 2 letter by Mark Wilson concerning homosexuality and sin.

As a concerned Christian, I must say that homosexuality is not a state of being, but rather a state of mind as well as a state of sin. Yes, God loves everyone, but He does not love their sin. This is evident in God's Word, the Bible. In Romans 1:18-32, it talks about God's wrath and His righteous judgment of mankind concerning sin: "Because of this (sinful desire, sexual impurity), God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a reprobate mind." This Scripture and others (I Corinthians 6:9-11; I Timothy 1:9-11; Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13) show that homosexual practice is sinful in God's eyes.

Concerning the relationship of David and Jonathan in the Bible stated by Wilson as a "homosexual love affair," I must disagree and say that their relationship was that of friendship, mutual loyalty and a genuine love that we all should desire to have for each other despite gender, race and economic status differences. Also, how could David be homosexual if he slept with Bathsheba and had a son from her? Read God's Word for what it is: Truth.

JEFF HARLESS
Northport

Letters policy

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'Paid as they deserve'

Dear Editor: "God is a forgiving God, but also He is a God of judgment." In response to Mark Wilson's letter about how homosexuality is a state of being and not a sin brings out the fact how much the world is blinded by Satan. The question is how does God view homosexuality?

In Romans 1:27-2:16 we find how God feels about their life style. It says in Romans 1:27 "men will be paid as they deserve." I Timothy identifies those that are living an impure life. As in the case many times we misquote or take out of context what the Word of God actually says. The Scripture that Mr. Wilson refers to has nothing to do with homosexuality, that being II Samuel 1:26. "What kind of love was better than the love of a woman?" This Scripture is talking about a relationship that has a commitment and loyalty that shaped a friendship as with David and Jonathan that is rare between men, but unheard of between men and women. Men then typically viewed women as inferior and considered women as their possessions so there were no true commitment or friendship. So David was not implying he had a sexual relationship with Jonathan. Homosexual acts were absolutely forbidden in Israel, recorded in Leviticus 18:22. Leviticus 20:73 decrees the death penalty for those who practice homosexuality.

Jesus came to reach all people that live in any form of immoral life and people through Jesus can be saved from their life style. And all us as Christians are to love the sinner, but not the sin, because Jesus died for each of us.

ROBERT STONE
Demopolis

Male plus female: thriving

Dear Editor: I am writing in disagreement with a letter to the editor appearing on Feb. 2.

Mark Wilson says that he doesn't think that homosexuality is wrong. He says that he bases this on what the Bible tells us.

I, on the other hand, believe that he is contradicting what the Bible clearly tells us. Look at Leviticus 18:22: "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable" (NIV).

That, beyond the shadow of a doubt, tells us that homosexuality is wrong, doesn't it? I think so.

That's what I base my beliefs on — what God tells us through His Word. God created male and female so that the human race could thrive and reproduce; anyone can see that.

KIM SKELTON
Tuscaloosa

'Root hog, or die!'

Dear Editor: Articles about the property tax for school improvement, and the gay/lesbian/bisexual convention provide a plain lesson in how government, by governing by special interest rather than by common interests, is rapidly fraying the fabric which unites us as a nation.

For example, the property tax to pay for schools is unjust because those paying most will not necessarily benefit at all.

Another example is the bisexual/gay/lesbian conference to be held at the University of Alabama. To finance and give de facto approval of an addiction/lifestyle which is abhorrent to the vast majority whose student fees are being used is an outrage. The school administration of these students fees is just like government politicians. As with taxes and robbery, the difference is mere quibbling over words.

This sort of division isn't unavoidable. The Libertarian notion of "user fees" comes to mind. Let those who support and use the various services foot the bill. Don't charge the fundamentalist Christian for the expense of a "gay" rights convention. And there is an old country saying that applies to those who would protest the inability to finance this or that. It goes, "Root hog, or die!"

Better still, let's cut government activity back to its true and central charter, that of simply protecting us from force and fraud. Vote for Harry Brown for president, and where there are no Libertarians on the ballot, go for more Republican freshmen who'll not dance to the tunes of Slick Willie and the Spendthrifts.

REVIS D. TILLEY
Northport

FRI. 2/9/96

Let's love one another

Dear Editor: When will we who call ourselves Christians learn how to become what Christ tried to teach us? It's so simple, so pure. We are to love one another. Christ set that example in so many ways. We, as His children, are just to love one another.

The homosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, choose a mate, not just because of a sexual desire, but because they happen to fall in love. To

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Letters

some, a homosexual is not only strange but threatening. Think how strange it was when slaves wanted their freedom and women and blacks wanted the right to vote. Think how many times God's Word was used against them to deny them that right.

Many gay people love God and, in their daily lives, live the life of a Christian. It's very sad that they are not allowed into God's house with unconditional love, without fear, without being feared, without having to live a lie.

We are all guilty of sin. If Christ were here now (which He is), would He want any of us to cast the first stone?

God said vengeance is His, so how many times will hatred be allowed on any of God's children by anyone who proclaims to be a child of God?

If we must do something in the name of God, why can't it be, "Be ye kind one to another."

M.S. WISE
Tuscaloosa

Some day, heaven or hell

Dear Editor: In regard to the editorial "Reader: It's not a sin" written by Mark Wilson, the relationship Wilson referred to as "homosexual" between David and Jonathan was a strong friendship. There is no mention of their having a sexual desire for one another, which is the meaning of homosexuality according to Webster's Dictionary. I Samuel 20:42 states, "Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord...' " I have read the Bible many times and I have yet to find the many homosexual relationships Wilson spoke of.

Romans 1:18-32 also condemns homosexuality along with many other sins. We can excuse our sins by saying that they are a "state of being" but that does not make them less a sin. God condemns all sins.

One day we will be judged accordingly and the results will be an eternity in heaven or hell.

LINDA SPILLER
Gordo

Write to UA trustees

Dear Editor: The University of Alabama System has experienced many negative events since University of Alabama President Roger Sayers put condom machines in the men's restroom at the main campus' Student Union. Some public relations nightmares include publicly funded facilities used to show the pornographic movie "Showgirls," and the proposed use of facilities purchased by taxpayers for a mid-February convention of homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals in Tuscaloosa. There is no telling what politically correct nonsense has been hidden from the public.

Armistead

In investigating the recent moral free fall at the University, I have discovered no moral, mature leadership at the main campus. (UAB has its own list of evidence that this situation is true.) Contacting anyone at the University is a waste of time. The president of each campus answers to Chancellor Philip Austin. Calling Austin may help you feel better, but don't expect any changes.

The trustees hire or fire the chancellor. For real change may I suggest each taxpayer contact both University System Trustees in your district and make your disgust clear. Tell them you hold them personally responsible for the lack of leadership. (You can get the Trustees names by calling (205) 348-5861.)

Then call Sen. Bill Armistead, (334) 242-7877. Make your concerns known and report your Trustees' responses. The State Senate is the only vehicle by which the public has a say in appointing University Trustees. The moral climate of the University System for your children/grandchildren, and the way your tax dollars are spent depends on you.

LYLE PALMER
Northport

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Judgment is passed

Dear Editor: I am so sick of opening the paper to see all these self-righteous, homophobic people writing in about how gay and lesbian people are wrong and the Bible says one thing or another.

Well, here's something the Bible says that no one can debate: Judge not lest ye be judged!

Let the heterosexuals love whomever they love, and likewise let homosexuals do the same. There is no reason for these people, who claim to be Christians, to pass judgment on people whom they have never met, much less held a conversation with, based solely on sexual orientation.

And, as for Paul E. Robertson, who wrote that gays and lesbians should be forced to wear pink triangles, I would like to remind him of a man named Hitler who tried that exact same thing a while back. It didn't go over very well.

There are many things out there to be afraid of. Fear snakes or heights, but why be afraid of another person just because they love someone of the same sex?

HEATHER E. LIETCH
Tuscaloosa

Won't inherit kingdom

Dear Editor: In response to Mark Wilson's letter in which he stated that the Bible condones homosexuality and gave as an example the relationship shared by Jonathan and David, we, the undersigned, declare that Wilson is wrong. In no way can even the most uninformed reader construe that the wondrous friendship between the two was anything but pure. Each loved God first and foremost leaving no room for the vile and ungodly acts of homosexuality.

Jesus descended from David's bloodline which could not be defiled with homosexual perversions. God never permitted such acts in the Old Testament. The penalty was death. Leviticus 18:22 states that homosexuality is an abomination and Leviticus 20:13 commands that both partners should be put to death.

The New Testament clearly describes homosexuality in Romans 1:26-27 and what homosexuals and others who disobey God deserve as punishment (verse 32). The passage Wilson quoted, I Corinthians 6:9, lists those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. The effeminate and the abusers of themselves with mankind are on that list. The effeminate refers to those who do not act or reflect their own natural sex. The abusers of themselves with mankind refers to anyone who is sexual with his or her own sex.

In light of these Scriptures, we can in no way support the decision made by the University of Alabama to condone and allow the conference supporting homosexuality.

Mr. & Mrs. FRED DIXON, Mr. & Mrs. GREG DIXON and Mr. & Mrs. TIM NOLEN
Moundville
Three other couples signed this letter.

'Agape' is greatest love

Dear Editor: This letter is in response to the letter from Mark Wilson who said that homosexuality was not a sin and that David and Jonathan were gay lovers. I think it is a shame when people begin to twist God's Word so as to justify their behavior.

It is true that the word "homosexual" is not used in God's Word; however, words that hold the same meaning are. The word "sex" does not appear in the Bible but people obviously had sex or we would not exist today.

In I Corinthians 6:9, the phrase "abusers of themselves with mankind" in the Greek is "arsenokoites" which translated is "a sodomite" or "unnatural sexual intercourse."

As far as David and Jonathan, they did love each other, but it was not the kind of love that was perverted. If you read I and II Samuel (as you say you have) you will see that the word "love" in Hebrew is "ahab" which means "to have affection for like a friend."

While you are reading the Bible you might try this verse: Proverbs 30:6.

You speak of David's love for Jonathan, but did you know that there is even a greater love? That love is "agape" love, the kind God has for us — unconditional love. He loves us in spite of our sin. He sent His Son to die for our sins (John 3:16). You just have to believe (John 3:36) and turn away from all unrighteousness.

God bless you in your search for the truth.

DEBBIE ATKINS
Tuscaloosa

Wed. Feb 14, 1996

Judge won't block gay conference

By JAY REEVES
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA — A federal judge Tuesday refused to block this weekend's conference for homosexuals at the University of Alabama, turning aside state claims that the meeting is illegal.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson means the controversial meeting can proceed complete with talks on AIDS, safe sex, sadomasochism and bondage — all in the heart of the Bible Belt.

Efforts to halt the gathering have transformed it from a conference to a cause, pitting free-speech rights and gay activism against the state's conservative values.

"I never anticipated any of this. I have just been amazed," said Cathy Wessell, who organized the two-day Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference of the Southeastern United States.

It is set to begin Friday with the theme "Voices of Diversity: Living Out in the South."

In his decision Tuesday, Thompson reiterated many of the points in his Jan. 29 decision, which declared the state law barring funding of gay student groups unconstitutional.

Opponents from the governor on down say such a meeting has no place at a taxpayer-funded university. Attorney General Jeff Sessions tried to block the conference through the courts, leading to Thompson's decision.

"This time it is a conference. Next time it may be something else. It could be one of those gay-rights parades, which are repulsive," said GOP state Sen. Bill Armistead.

Members of the school's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance, the sponsor of the event, say the meeting is a way for gays to share common concerns and meet new people in an academic setting.

Effort to halt the gathering has pitted free-speech rights and gay activism against the state's conservative values.

"We're trying to encourage tolerance and discourage bigotry," said David Donaldson, another organizer. "The way you do that is through education."

For its part, the university has stood behind the alliance, describing it as a recognized student group with a constitutional right to meet on campus.

"The university has a duty to err on the side of the First Amendment," said Culpepper Clark, an aide to university President Roger Sayers.

That argument doesn't sway some parents who fear too much liberalism is creeping on campus. Christie Wilson of nearby Northport said because of the conference, her son Benji, a high school junior, would no longer consider attending Alabama.

"We are Christians," she said. "We take a stand against sin."

Meantime, all the controversy may have actually helped boost those planning to attend the conference — from about 120 to as many as 300.

The agenda features workshops on everything from progress in developing an AIDS vaccine, to social activism to a workshop called "Out on the Fringes," which contains discussions of sadomasochism, bondage and fetishes.

Republican Gov. Fob James has condemned the conference, and Sessions tried to block the meeting after initially refusing to do so. Sessions, considering a bid

Please see JUDGE Page 3B

JUDGE

Continued from Page 1B

for U.S. Senate, reversed himself after other GOP Senate hopefuls criticized his reluctance to fight the meeting.

Sessions had asked Thompson to reverse his recent decision that overturned a 1992 state law banning taxpayer assistance for gay groups. The judge refused, and Sessions said he did not know what he would do next.

The American Civil Liberties Union, representing a group of gay students in Mobile who want to attend the meeting, said the state should quit trying to block the conference.

"They're going to have difficulty succeeding with anything else," said Ruth Harlow of the ACLU in New York.

Meetings like the one planned at the University of Alabama have been held with little controversy at other schools, including the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., where the first four Southeastern meetings were held.

Armistead said he and other opponents took a calculated risk in speaking out against the Alabama conference. The lawmaker said he didn't want to give the conference publicity, but felt he had to do something.

"We should not be having this on any state campus," Armistead said.

Jonathan, David smeared by recent letter to News

Dear Editor: One does not have to be a Bible scholar to find that homosexual lusts and acts are sins. The word "homosexual" does not need to be used to prove this. Romans 1:24-27 describes the sin in terms too clear to be misunderstood: "God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature ... also men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another ... " The men of Sodom were certainly guilty of homosexual sin. Genesis 19:4-7 tells us that they demanded Lot to bring out his men guests "that we may know them." They had already been described in Genesis 13:13 as "wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."

Not only does the Feb. 2 letter writer deny the obvious, but he also repeats a vicious smear against two Bible heroes, Jonathan and David.

There is absolutely no indication that the godly, brotherly love between David and Jonathan involved homosexuality. The Bible from beginning to ending gives both the virtues and vices of the champions of faith. David's sins of adultery and proxy-murder are given in detail. Any perverted relationship would have been recorded and condemned had it occurred. Both Jonathan and David had wives and children.

G. WAYNE CROCKER
Cottondale

A human face, not a label

Dear Editor: In a recent column, Ken Stickney settled the question about the Southeast Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference meeting on the University of Alabama campus: to prevent it would be a breach of the First Amendment. I would like to approach this issue from a different angle.

We are doing a disservice by not allowing an open and honest discussion of the complex question concerning human sexuality. Homosexuality and bisexuality are very real and dispersed throughout our society. To pretend they do not exist or to treat them as taboo subjects only forces people to hide and lie about their true feelings at a very high personal cost. It is estimated that one-third of teenagers who commit suicide are struggling with sexual orientation.

Refusing to acknowledge the presence of gay and bisexual people in our world will not make them disappear. There are between six and 10 million married couples in the United States where one partner is either gay or bisexual. Not all will act on their orientation, but the feelings and attractions are there.

Most of you who are reading this letter know someone who is gay or bisexual. It may be the person who sits on the same pew with you in church every Sunday. It might be someone with whom you do business each week. Or it may be closer to home: a son, daughter, brother, sister, spouse, etc.

Hopefully this local controversy will lead to greater understanding and acceptance instead of more denial and fear. We must learn to see a human face rather than a label, because someday we may discover that the face above the label belongs to someone we love.

JON ATKINSON
Tuscaloosa

Letters policy

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Or, for your convenience, you can fax your letters (including phone number and address) to Ken Stickney, Editorial Page Editor. The News' fax number is 205-349-0802.

No fence-sitting, please

Dear Editor: After reading the article on Thursday's, Feb. 1 front page concerning the Tuscaloosa County Commission and the proposed meeting of the Southeast Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance at the University, I was left with more questions than answers.

If each County Commission member adamantly opposes the conference, why are they unwilling to take a public, on-the-record stand against it, as many leaders in the religious community have? Were these members not put in office to publicly represent their constituents' views and concerns? Commissioner Mike Richardson says, "This is an example of how the moral fiber of this country is decaying." Another example would be a community's representatives sitting on the middle of the fence, terrified that they might offend one group or another.

He also says, "I'm against it, but there's nothing we can do." Wrong answer. Move over and make room for someone who will try.

LARRY JONES
Tuscaloosa

UA officials merit praise

Dear Editor: I would like to take this opportunity to urge fellow Christians, believers, anyone who considers themselves to be a member of the family of God to reject the misinformed and hateful message expressed by Becky Snow in the Feb. 2 issue of The Tuscaloosa News.

Snow points to a law which prohibits funding for college groups which the state feels may be advocating the breaking of the state's sexual misconduct law (an archaic law prohibiting behavior between consenting adults). As a federal judge wrote in his recent opinion regarding that law's unconstitutionality, the state sought to silence one view and one view only. The state was trying to regulate what topics we, Americans, are allowed to freely discuss.

Also, I'd like to point out that Snow's religious beliefs concerning homosexuality are not universally held. Numbers of mainline American denominations have active movements struggling with this issue. In fact, when the General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets in April, it will consider a number of petitions which will make UMC more welcoming to gay Christians. There is even the Metropolitan Community Church, which began in 1968, and now has more than 30,000 members worldwide.

I, too, would urge people to contact University officials — to thank them for standing up for the First Amendment rights of all Alabamians. I would urge Snow and those like her to ask themselves not "Can one be homosexual and Christian?" but rather the question that more and more believers are asking themselves everyday: "Can one be Christian and homophobic?"

LOUIS COOPER
Tuscaloosa

God spoke: It is wrong

Dear Editor: This letter is in response to Mark Wilson's letter on Feb. 2, and his claim that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality. From the beginning it has been so.

Gen. 1:27 — And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them. Gen. 2:20-24 — Woman was created from the rib of Adam to be his help meat. God commanded that he should leave father and mother and cleave unto her.

Gen. 19 — During the time of the patriarch's, God expressed his divine displeasure with the practice of homosexuality. The record of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah leaves no doubt as to God's attitude toward this unlawful practice. Our English word "sodomy" is derived from the city of Sodom.

We read in Lev. 18:22 — Ye shall not lie with a male as with a woman, it is an abomination. The word "abominable" in the Bible could be translated "unlawful, abhor, detest or hate."

Again, in the Mosiac Law, God expressed his displeasure with the practice of homosexuality. In Lev. 20:13, this is called an abomination, punishable by death. Read also Deut. 23:17; Judges 19:22-25.

In Romans I, we see in vivid detail God's displeasure with homosexuality. Other Scriptures include: Matt. 19:4-5; I Cor. 6:9-12; I Cor. 7:2; I Tim. 1:8-10; Jude 7.

God has spoken on this subject. Homosexuality is a sin and a moral wrong.

RUTH WALLACE
Tuscaloosa

TR FEB 15 1996

Gay, lesbian conference is still on schedule

By DANA BEYERLE
Montgomery Bureau

MONTGOMERY — A homosexual issues conference is to take place on schedule at the University of Alabama beginning Friday, now that a federal judge has told Attorney General Jeff Sessions he won't stop it.

Sessions

"As far as we're concerned, we feel we have done everything legally and professionally we can do to preserve the statute," Sessions spokeswoman Claire Austin said Wednesday. "We will continue with our appeal to defend the statute."

The Fifth Annual Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference of the Southeastern United States, scheduled for Friday and Saturday in Tuscaloosa, is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian Bisexual Alliance of the University of Alabama.

David Donaldson, secretary of the UA GLBA and a coordinator of the event, said the group is glad to get down to the business of having the conference.

"We're immensely relieved," he said. "Just planning and coordinating the conference has been overwhelming enough, without having to deal with the legal ins and outs of our situation as we have over the past month or month and a half."

Sessions had said the conference by its nature would violate the state's 1993 law which prohibits the use of state property or funds to promote violations of the sodomy and sexual misconduct laws.

He maintained the conference where homosexual issues will be discussed would violate the law.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson on Jan. 29 found the law unconstitutional and Sessions vowed to appeal.

Thompson on Tuesday denied Sessions' request to enforce the law if violations of sodomy or sexual misconduct laws should occur at the conference.

Sessions has appealed Thompson's Jan. 29 ruling to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta and has asked for a quick hearing.

Austin said the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has denied an expedited hearing but the appeal of Thompson's Jan. 29 ruling is still pending.

Thompson noted that Sessions did not seek to stop the conference but sought "to have the statute available should a violation occur at the upcoming conference."

Sessions, due to the nature of homosexual sex, wondered how workshops on "safe sex" and "sexually transmitted diseases" would not violate the law.

Although Sessions said he had no problem with the workshops if they "could be presented in a way that would not violate the statute," Thompson said he wasn't buying it.

"We had hoped that we would at least get the judge to have that portion of the statute (available) which would allow us to apply the law during the conference, if violations were to occur," Austin said.

Thompson said "the manner in which the attorney general seeks to apply it pending appeal would still be invalid" for First Amendment reasons.

He said Sessions could not come up with "a single prospective application" of the law which would not unconstitutionally infringe on the GLBA member's right to free speech.

Donaldson said about 100 people were registered for the conference as of Wednesday and he expects attendance to be 200 or more.

"People are calling all the time wanting more information about whether they can register. So we expect to have quite a few at the door," he

Please see GAY Page 4B

GAY

Continued from Page 1B

said.

A security plan has been devised "that will adequately deal with any contingency that might arise," Donaldson said, although he was not aware of any protests planned by opponents of the conference.

UA police Sgt. Elizabeth Turner also was not aware of anyone planning to stage a protest at the conference.

"We are, of course, attuned to the situation and aware of what's going on and will react appropriately, just like we would in any situation of this sort," Turner said.

She said any protesters will be directed to a "free speech" area outside Ferguson Center, where the convention will be on Saturday.

Conference events on Friday evening will be in the biology building auditorium.

Richard Powell, staff writer at The Tuscaloosa News, contributed to this report.

A New York Times Company

TR Jan 4, 1996

Sin City?

Some University of Alabama students have apparently raised the eyelids of Bill Armistead, Republican senator from Shelby County, who sees sin in abundance at the Capstone.

Armistead, a first-term legislator, has certainly become wide-eyed of late at some doings on campus.

Armistead has warned us and the rest of the state in recent weeks that the University students will be watching "Showgirls," a quasi-skinflick, on campus next week. A month later, he warns us, the campus will be awash with homosexuals, as UA serves as the site for the Fifth Annual Southeastern Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference. There's gonna be trouble, right here in River City, perhaps.

"It tells me that the administration is really not in control of what's going on at the University of Alabama and indicates that the University is allowing their property to be used for things not in their charter ...," he said this week.

Could this be true?

In part, it is. The University is not and cannot be in control of the morals, personal interests and inclinations of 20,000 individual students, virtually all of whom are adults. If individual adult students want to watch a value-less movie, that's their choice.

The decision to show "Showgirls," a wretched movie that bombed at the box office, was probably dumb. The unlucky few who'll wander into Ferguson Center to view that movie will likely arrive at that same judgment. Let them take it up with University Programs, the student-run organization that selected the movie, which will be paid for through student fees.

But is it an important enough matter to command the attention of a busybody state senator? No.

Armistead's salvo against the conference for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual students strikes us as worse than meddlesome, though. It's an act of cruelty, a bully's effort to pick on a potentially vulnerable group. A campus official said that UA students, members of a UA recognized gay and lesbian organization, took the required steps to reserve campus facilities for the regional conference. In doing so, they reserved rooms at the same room rates that would be charged to other student groups.

If Armistead intended to draw attention to himself through outbursts about those students, he's done so. If he intended to draw attention to young people who are learning to deal with their own sexual orientation, he's done that too.

By doing so, he's shown no awareness of what a major public university is about or whom it serves. Students with a variety of backgrounds come to the University of Alabama for many reasons: for excellence in academics, for personal growth, for exposure to a variety of viewpoints, to develop understanding and compassion for others. The state senator from Shelby County could use some of that.

C-LINE #62028
NON-GLARE TOPPER

Jan 31, 1996
Tusc. News

Letters

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My second recommendation is a modest proposal. Gov. James, Attorney General Sessions, and State Sen. Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, should use their political power to prevent the *sinful lifestyles* of homosexuals from corrupting the morals of innocent children and decent adults. In order for homosexuals to be identified most easily, homosexuals should be required to wear a pink triangle with a registration number. This method of detecting the perverted will abet in police in arresting and jailing them expeditiously. This will serve the express purpose of protecting the general population from any further damage due to exposure to these sinful people.

PAUL E. ROBERTSON
Northport

Pink triangles suggested

Dear Editor: As one of your daily readers, I have been interested in the current controversy over The Fifth Annual Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference of the Southeastern United States. I have two suggestions: one to be used by supporters of cultural diversity, who defend the conference and the university, like Ken Stickney; and the second to be used by Gov. Fob James, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and folks of like minds.

My first recommendation is to use the noun homosexual when referring to "gay" or "lesbian" folks. The American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association both use "homosexual" when they refer to these people.

JUDGE

Continued from Page 1A

taken away from him. It's unconstitutional because it censors one particular viewpoint on university campuses and the First Amendment clearly prohibits that. We hope this will put an end to enforcement and discrimination against these student groups."

Gov. Guy Hunt signed the law that was patterned after an opinion by then-Attorney General Jimmy Evans, who said state facilities could not be used to violate the state's sodomy laws.

Deputy Attorney General Richard Allen said he had not analyzed the ruling released late Monday. "I just can't answer any questions until we study this and talk to Jeff about this," he said.

David Donaldson, a student member of the GLBA and a conference coordinator, said his organization was "immensely relieved" over the ruling.

"We have been moving forward with plans to hold the conference and will continue to do so but with considerably less burden," he said. The GLBA gets $3,500 from students.

Glenn Powell, the University of Alabama's general counsel, said it was too early to comment, but added, "I will say this decision removes the code section from the table."

Earlier in the day, Alabama System Chancellor Phil Austin said neither he nor Sayers planned to block the conference as long as they believed no state laws would be broken. Both Sessions and Gov. James last week said the conference would be in violation of state law.

Austin said the decision belonged to Sayers but the university president "is saying he has no basis for intervening right now. I believe he made the right judgment and I support him. I will not move to stop that conference."

Austin said the University's lawyers believe there is "nothing contemplated in the agenda of this proposed meeting that is illegal."

"To the contrary, members of an accepted recognized group have the right to assemble and exchange their ideas however unsavory someone may find them," Austin said. "That the nature of the university."

Cobb Theatres
ALL MOVIES STEREO
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★ DUSK TILL DAWN (R)
1:45 4:40 7:40 10:10
12 MONKEYS (R)
1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00
★ SCREAMERS (R)
2:00 4:30 7:30 10:10 11:30
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EYE FOR AN EYE (R)
1:35 4:20 7:30 9:50
★ SENSE & SENSIBILITY (PG)
1:15 4:15 7:00 9:45
DON'T BE ...

Tues. Jan 30, 1996

U.S. judge rules state can't stop gay conference

By DANA BEYERLE
Montgomery Bureau

MONTGOMERY — A federal judge on Monday struck down a state law that Attorney General Jeff Sessions cited in an attempt to block a homosexual group's conference at the University of Alabama next month.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson ruled unconstitutional the 1992 law that bars the use of state facilities by support groups that foster or promote homosexual lifestyles or actions prohibited by the sodomy or sexual misconduct laws of Alabama. State law prohibits oral or anal sex between unmarried persons.

Sessions last week asked University of Alabama President Roger Sayers to halt the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance's Feb. 16-17 "Southeast Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference," citing his belief it would break the law. Sessions said if Sayers didn't halt it he would seek an injunction.

Thompson ruled the law is a prior restraint on the First Amendment rights of gays, saying it "reflects an open effort by the state legislature to limit the sexuality discussion in institution of higher learning to only one viewpoint — that of heterosexual people."

The decision involves a lawsuit filed on behalf of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance at the University of South Alabama, which sued the state after the school refused to give it any student activity money after the law was passed in 1992.

"The defendants contend that the government has a compelling interest in promoting marriage and the procreation of children, in enforcing Alabama's sexual misconduct statutes," Thompson wrote. "Although this may be true ... even when the state has a compelling interest in an idea, it still may not exclude viewpoints with which it disagrees."

Ruth Harlow, associate director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, argued the case.

She said Sessions "legal hook has been

Please see JUDGE Page 4A

Thursday. Sun Jan 28 1996

KEN
STICKNEY

The Great Gay Debate

Stickney

The Great Gay Debate seems to have us all at odds, sometimes of two minds even within ourselves.

Moral and legal issues are swirling in this case, often competing with one another.

Some weeks back, a University of Alabama official, insistent that students ought to make the call on whether the soft-porn flick, "Showgirls," should be shown at UA, conceded that, "This isn't 'Ulysses' we're defending here."

No it wasn't. Likewise, many of those who insist that the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance ought not be barred from hosting at UA a Southeastern meeting on gay issues, are not wholly comfortable with the force they're aligned with — the gay rights movement — in what is a First Amendment confrontation. That's how it is with the First Amendment, which includes issues of free speech and free assembly; you seldom get to pick your cases or your allies.

Here's why fair-minded people, charitable in spirit though not comfortable with the gay movement, can still agree with the GLBA in this case:

■ The GLBA is an approved campus organization, eligible to receive funding. It was not approved as a "sex club," but rather as a campus organization composed of people with some social and political concerns and interests.

■ The organization took appropriate steps in applying for student activity funds and in seeking to use campus facilities for the conference, scheduled for Feb. 16-17.

■ The law the attorney general is citing in threatening to halt their conference is certainly vague and likely unconstitutional, presenting what are arguably prior restraints on free speech. The law is currently under challenge in federal court.

■ This current controversy, more than likely, has less to do with gay rights and more to do with other, unrelated matters: election year politics, higher education budget cuts, etc. In that regard, the students singled out would be used as means to an end, an unethical way to treat any human beings, no matter how unpopular or scorned their particular cause may be.

One needn't be enthused with the gay rights cause to lend homosexuals respect as fellow people or to recognize their rights as citizens. One could be wholly in agreement with Scriptural understanding, noted in these pages by a local pastor a few years ago, that homosexuality "is a sin, not the only one or the worst but still a sin" — while recognizing that homosexuals, as fellow sinners, ought not be outcasts solely for their sexual orientation. There aren't many angels among us; if Fob James is concerned about sexual misconduct, as he says, he'll find a much greater volume of activity among heterosexuals.

The University can take the high road by protecting the rights of its students and still lose in Montgomery when it comes to appropriations. That explicit threat has been made in recent weeks. One can sense that this is the politics of the situation: The James administration, on this issue, can paint higher education as gay sympathizers, as out of touch with mainstream Alabamians (not always a bad thing to be) and as — you guessed it — unworthy of full funding.

Politically there's little risk for the James administration in that: Only some 15 percent of Alabamians hold college degrees, and not all of those, perhaps not many of those, will align themselves with the GLBA position on this conference. Politically, there's seldom a risk in attacking a small minority, particularly one disdained by much of the state's population.

But one takes the high road for its own sake, not because it's the surest path to popular support or state dollars. UA is on the path of principle, and ought to remain there.

Ken Stickney is editorial page editor. His column appears on Sunday.